



No. 17

COWBOY STAR OF THE MOVIES

TIM HOLT

10¢



in this issue

**2 thrilling tales of
THE GHOST RIDER!**

Read "The Hooks of Horror!"



TIM HOLT'S WESTERN ALBUM

CAUGHT in the murderous gunfire that rocks the range when a crooked gambler turns rustler boss to collect a debt, young Robert Clarke receives aid from Tim, Chito, and Jacqueline White.

GRIPPING words must be issuing from Tim's mouth, judging by the intent look on the gambler's hard face. Then, too, there's the grip of Tim's hands!

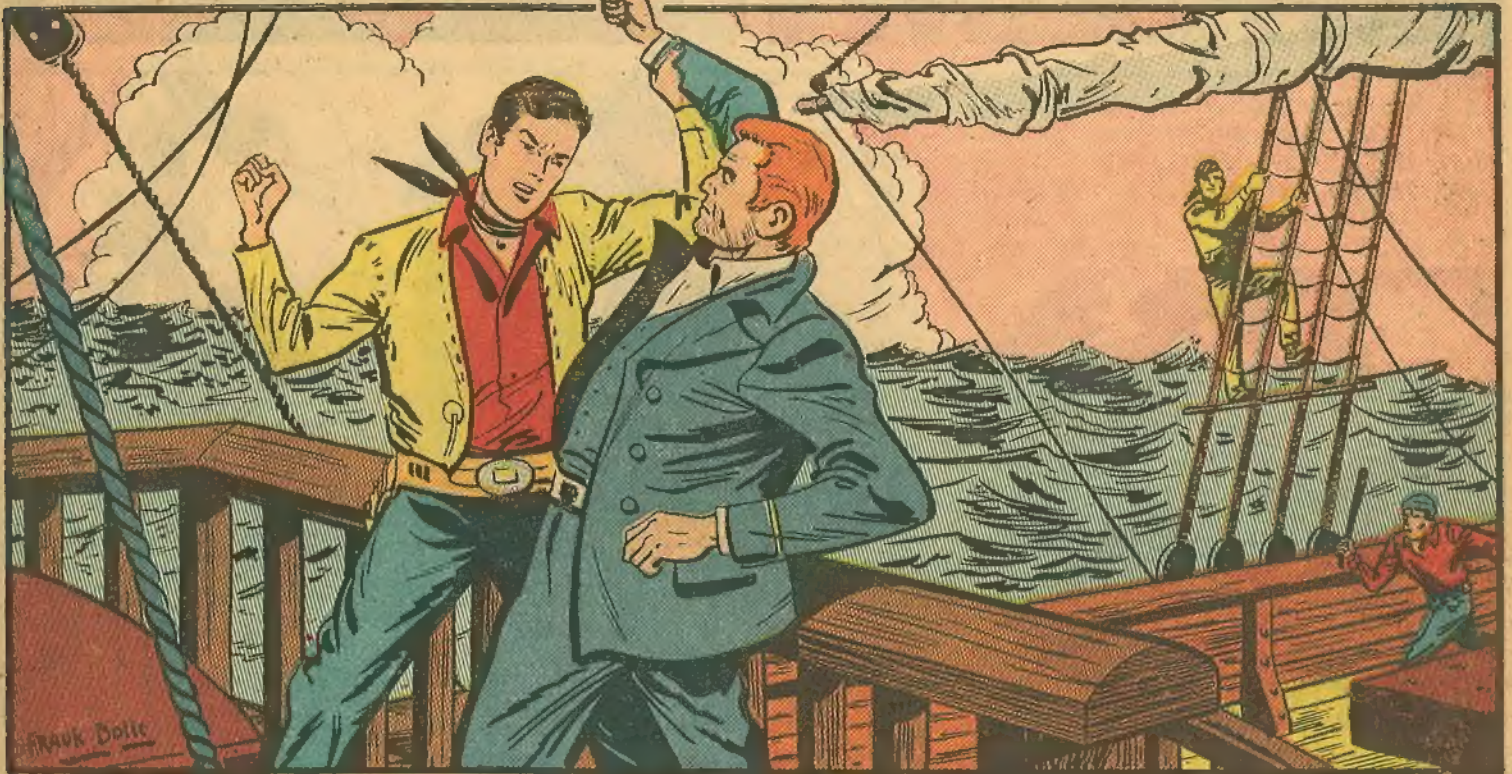


TIM HOLT

TIM HOLT

MUTINY ON THE HIGH SEAS! FISTS AND BELAYING PINS! GUNS THAT AIM TO KILL! DESPERATE MEN WHO STOP AT NOTHING! AND AS HIS CREW REBELS UNDER HIS IRON HEEL, CAPTAIN "ROCKY SHORES" ROARS AND BULLIES AND THREATENS—ONLY TO FIND TIM HOLT LETTING GO THE ANCHOR RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA-GOING SAGA OF—

"THE COWBOY AND THE CLIPPER!"



THE FOREDECK OF THE YANKEE CLIPPER, VERMONT, SWARMS WITH MEN MADE DESPERATE BY PANIC...

WE'LL NOT GO INTO THAT OCEAN...NOT WITH THE STORM THAT'S COMIN' UP ON THE HORIZON!

WE NEED REPAIRS—FRESH FRUIT TO PREVENT SCURVY—CLEAN WATER!



ON THE CAPTAIN'S BRIDGE—FIGHTING TO WREST THE LOADED COLT FROM THE CAPTAIN'S HAIRY HAND—IS TIM HOLT!

AVAST, YE MUSCLE-HEADED COW-TENDER! I'LL FLING YE TO THE FISHES!

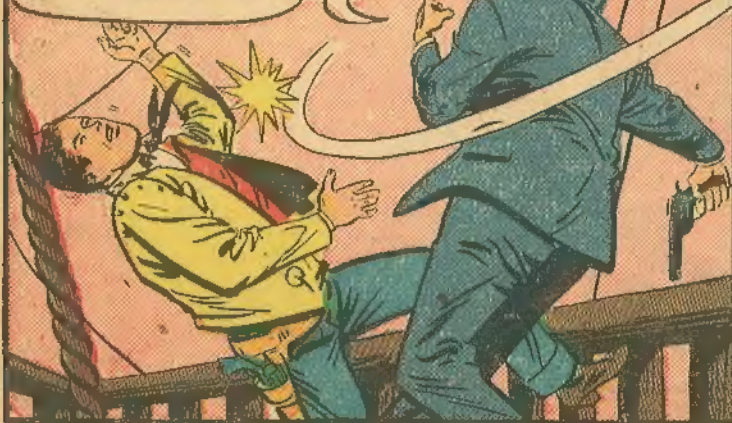
NO GUNS, CAPTAIN! YOU CAN'T SHOOT DOWN INNOCENT MEN!



TIM HOLT

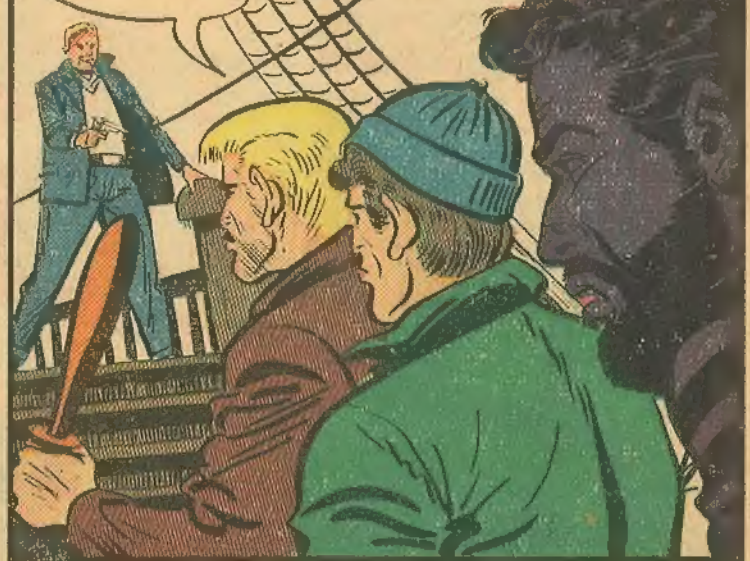
WITH A BERSERK HEAVE, THE MADDENED CAPTAIN WHIPS TIM FROM HIM, AND WHIRLS WITH A HOARSE BELLOW OF TRIUMPH!

HALT, YE CHICKEN-LIVERED SONS O' LANDLUBBERS! I SHOOT THE NEXT GALLEY-SLAVE THAT TAKES A STEP FORWARD!

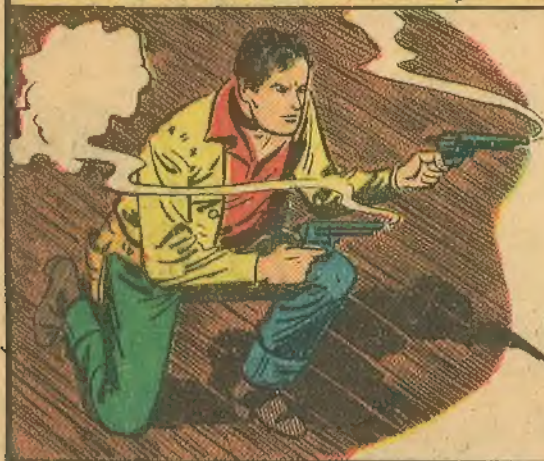


WE DON'T GO TO OUR DEATHS IN THAT STORM THAT'S BREWIN'!

SHOOT! YOU'LL GET ONLY A COUPLE OF US!



THUMBING HIS COLT PEACEMAKERS, TIM LEAPS FORWARD. ONE SHOT BLASTS THE CAPTAIN'S GUN FROM HIS NERVELESS FINGERS! ANOTHER, AND THEN ANOTHER, CUTS THE RIGGING SO THAT IT FALLS — TO DROP LIKE A GIGANTIC NET OVER THE RAGE-MADDENED SAILORS, ON THE DECK!



SAY YOUR PIECE, CAPTAIN SHORES! TELL YOUR MEN YOU WON'T TAKE THEM INTO THAT STORM! EVEN I KNOW THE MEN NEED FRESH FOOD AND WATER AFTER THEIR LONG TRIP!

HOLT—WHEN I GET YOU WITHOUT THEM GUNS...! ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL 'EM!



YOU ARE STOP THEE MUTINEE, BUT YOU STEEL MAKING BAD ENEMY EEN THAT CAPTAIN!

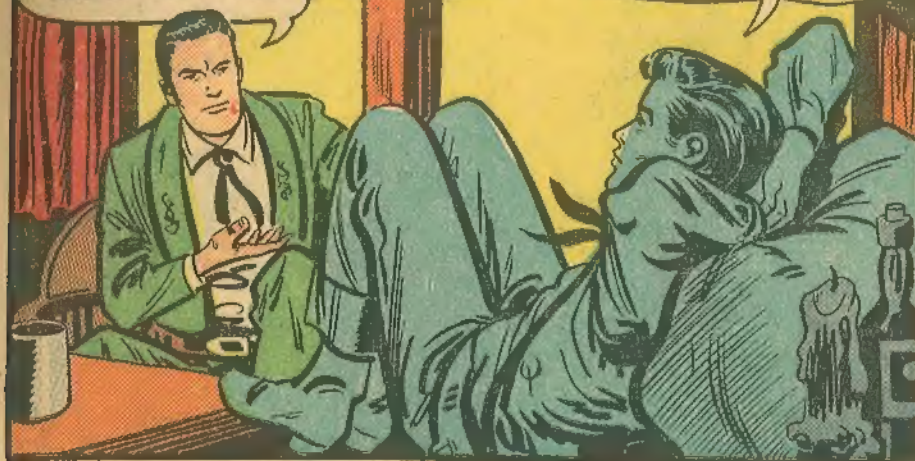
CAN'T HELP THAT, CHITO. IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO SAVE THOSE SAILOR'S LIVES. BESIDES, WE'LL BE AT THE END OF OUR JOURNEY, SHORTLY. THINK YOUR FOLKS WILL KNOW YOU?



TIM HOLT

I AM NOT KNOW. EES BE MANY YEARS SINCE I AM SEE THE BUSTAMONTE FAMILY. I AM BE YOUNG BOY WHEN I RUNNING AWAY. -SIGH- EET EES NICE OF YOU TO COMING WEETH ME, TIM.

WELL, WE NEEDED A VACATION AFTER BRINGING THOSE CATTLE ALL THE WAY TO ALTA CALIFORNIA. THIS IS IT!



AS TIM AND CHITO TALK IN THEIR CABIN, CAPTAIN "ROCKY" SHORES IS LIVID WITH RAGE...

BY THE SCARS OF SATAN'S LONG-BOAT! I'LL HAVE THE GIRL YET—AND THAT HOLT WILL BE KEEL-HAULED FROM HERE TO BOSTON!



I DIDN'T TAKE THE TROUBLE TO MEET HER IN BOSTON AN' PLAY SWEET FER NOTHIN'! HER FOLKS IS RICH—AN' I'LL GET THEIR MONEY WHEN SHE MARRIES ME LIKE SHE PROMISED ME BACK EAST!

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO SAIL MY SHIP OUT TO SEA! TO FETCH MY GIRL ABOARD! AND BY THE CATHEAD OF THE CONSTITUTION, I'LL DO IT!



THAT NIGHT, AND FOR SEVERAL NIGHTS THEREAFTER, CAPTAIN SHORES STOOD BY THE WHEELBOX, A SPOKE OF THE GREAT WHEEL ALWAYS IN HIS HAND...

I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH CHANCE TO TELL YOU I ADMIRE YOU FOR TAKING YOUR MEN TOWARD LAND, CAPTAIN. IT WAS BIG OF YOU TO FORGET YOUR OWN DESIRES—

NOT AT ALL, HOLT! AN' I'M MIGHTY SORRY I GOT HOT-HEADED DURING THE FIGHT...



HA. YOU ARE MAKING FRIENDS WEETH HEEM, HEIN?

WELL—NOT EXACTLY. HE DOESN'T TRUST ME—AND I DON'T TRUST HIM AS FAR AS I CAN THROW THIS SHIP. WHO KNOWS ANY NAVIGATION BUT HIM?



FOR ALL WE KNOW—THE CAPTAIN COULD BE TAKING US TO CHINA!

AY DI MI! CHINA!



TIM HOLT



EEES MAYBE YOU ARE MEEES LASSO PRACTICE, NO ?

NO! I'M GOING BELOW DECKS - IN A WAY THAT CAPTAIN SHORES WON'T NOTICE...

MOVING DOWN THE SIDE OF THE SWIFTLY TRAVELLING CLIPPER SHIP, TIM MANOEUVERS HIMSELF WITHIN HEARING DISTANCE OF THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN...

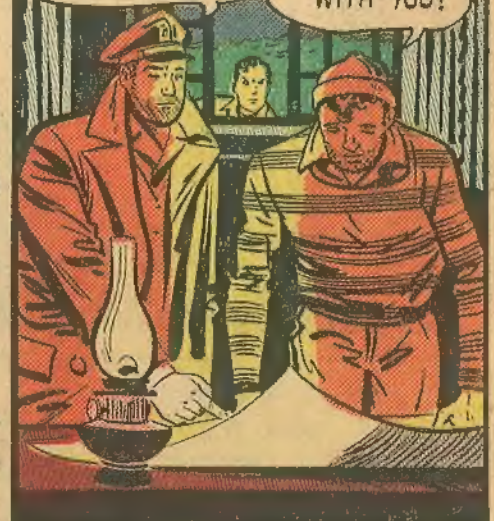
WHEN HE COMES BELOW DECKS, I'LL BE HERE IN CASE HE TALKS OVER HIS PLANS...



MINUTES LATER, THE CABIN DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES. THEN -

WE'LL CLEAR CATLIN ISLAND BEFORE EIGHT BELLS! WE'LL GO OVERSIDE IN A DORY, WITH A COUPLE OF PICKED BOYS.

I GET IT! A QUICK RAID ON THE HACIENDA - IN CASE THE SENORITA HAS CHANGED HER MIND ABOUT ELOPIN' WITH YOU!



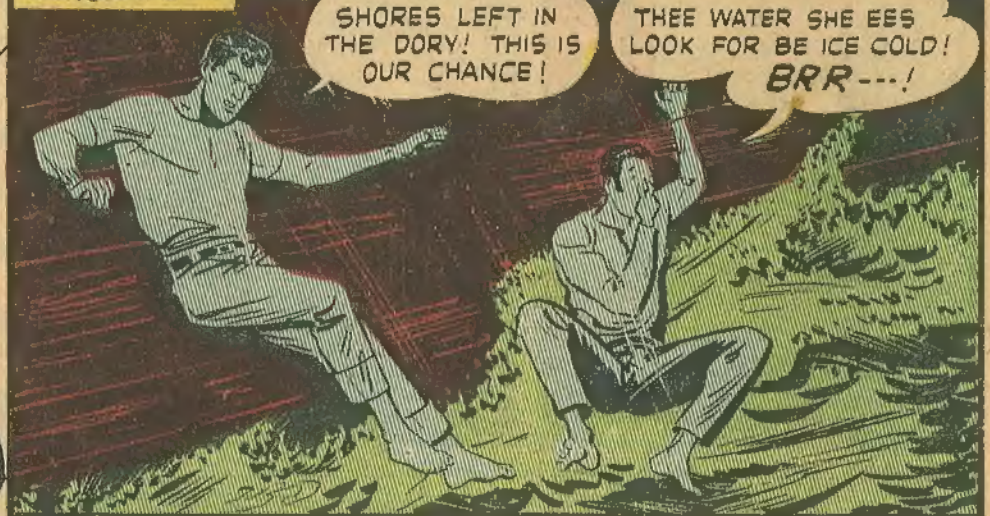
SHE SAID SHE'D HAVE A BAG OF HER FAMILY JEWELS. EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T, SHE'S A PRIZE WORTH CATCHING - ESPECIALLY SINCE HER FOLKS ARE PLENTY WEALTHY!



TWO NIGHTS LATER, AS THE ANCHOR CHAINS SLIP THROUGH THE HAWSEPIPE -

SHORES LEFT IN THE DORY! THIS IS OUR CHANCE!

THEE WATER SHE EES LOOK FOR BE ICE COLD! **BRR---!**



STROKING SWIFTLY THROUGH THE COLD WATER, TIM AND CHITO CLAMBER ASHORE...

THEY AREN'T FAR AHEAD. WE CAN FOLLOW THEM BY THE LANTERNS THEY'RE CARRYING.



SOME TIME LATER, AT THE HACIENDA, A FEW MILES INLAND...

EASY, ALL! BELAY THAT GAB, MATES! NO NEED TO ALARM THE GUARDS. I'LL MAKE A DASH IN - GET THE GAL AND WE'LL SLIP OUT WITHOUT ROUSIN' ANYONE...



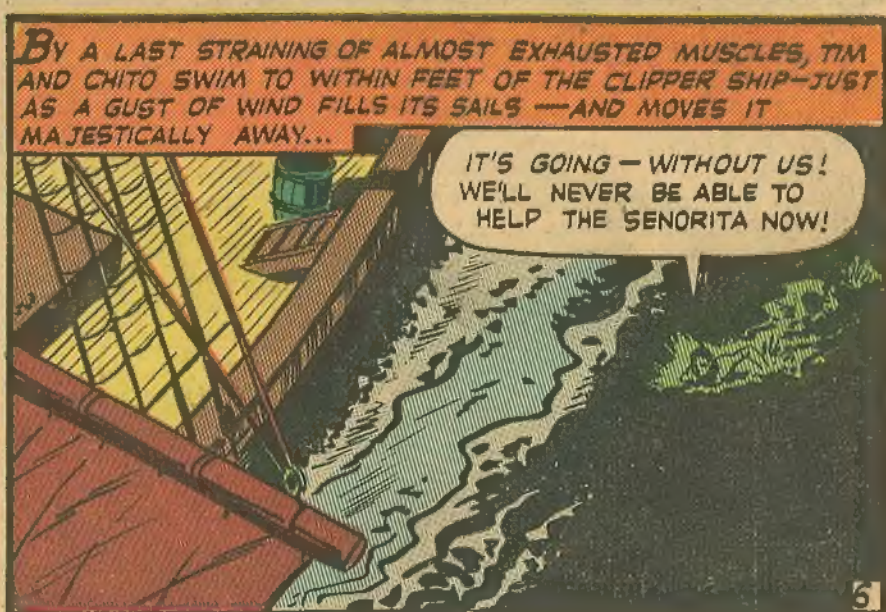
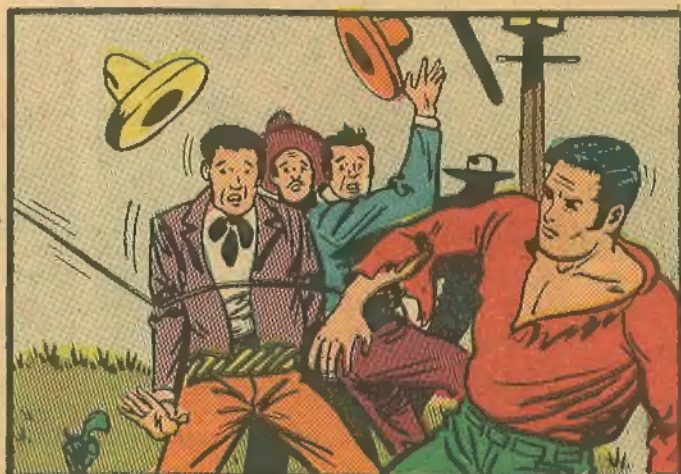
TIM HOLT



TIM HOLT



LIKE A
LIVING THING,
TIM'S LARIAT
SWINGS
DOWN AND
CLOSES ON
THE GUARDS—



TIM HOLT

AND THEN TIM'S DESPERATE FINGERS CLOSE ON A SUBMERGED ROPE! HE PULLS CHITO TOWARD HIM...

CHITO! A DRAGGING LIFT! MUST HAVE BROKEN OFF THE MAST! HANG ON!

I AM FOR TRY HANGING ON...



HAND OVER HAND, INCH BY INCH, TIM CRAWLS ALONG THE WET LIFT, DRAGGING CHITO WITH HIM. THE TUG OF THE SURGING CLIPPER ALMOST RIPS HIS ARMS FROM HIS SOCKETS...

CHITO—TAKE THE ROPE! YOU HAVE TO HELP! I'M ABOUT DONE IN!

MY ARMS SHE FEEL LIKE LEAD WEIGHTS. BUT I TRY...



HUH! CAPTAIN SHORES AND HIS RELUCTANT FIANCEE...



MARRY YOU? I'D RATHER DIE! AND I WILL DIE—IF YOU DON'T GET OUT—AND LEAVE ME ALONE!

HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY—DARLING! BUT I'LL BE BACK—AND WE'LL BE MARRIED BEFORE THIS JOURNEY'S DONE WITH!



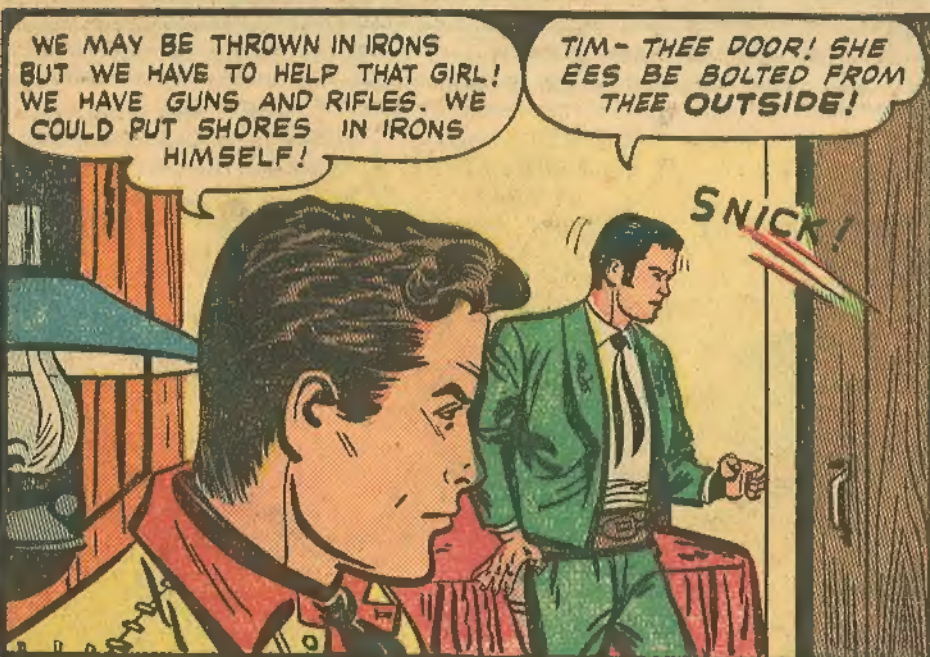
YOU HEARD THAT, CHITO? ON BOARD THIS SHIP SHORES HAS THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF A KING! WE CAN'T LEGALLY DEFY HIM—HE WOULD HAVE A LEGAL RIGHT TO THROW US IN IRONS!

AY DI MI! WHAT WE DO NOW?



WE MAY BE THROWN IN IRONS BUT WE HAVE TO HELP THAT GIRL! WE HAVE GUNS AND RIFLES. WE COULD PUT SHORES IN IRONS HIMSELF!

TIM—THEE DOOR! SHE EES BE BOLTED FROM THEE OUTSIDE!



SOMEONE DID BOLT IT, CHITO! WE'VE BEEN LOCKED IN!

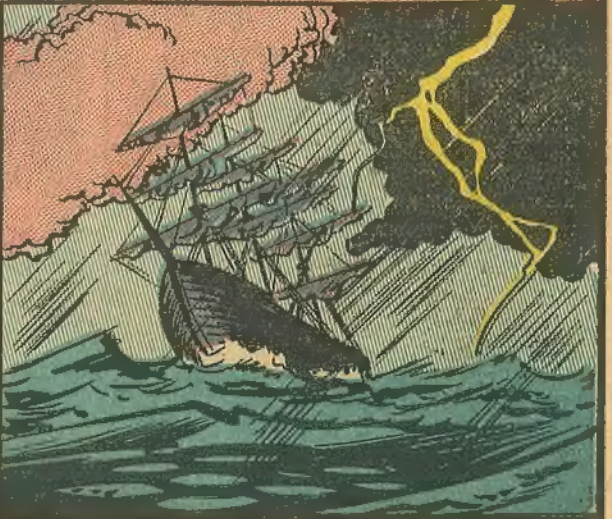


ABOVE DECKS, GRIM EYES STARE UPWARD AS LIGHTNING SPLITS THE DARKENED SKY! A HOT WIND MOVES ACROSS THE SUDDENLY HEAVING WAVES! TENSE FACES WHITEN IN FEAR.

SHE'S BLOWIN' FAST! A REG'LAR GALE!

IT'S A **TYPHOON!** I KNEW WE'D RUN INTO TROUBLE THIS FAR OFF THE MAINLAND!

SECONDS LATER, THE WIND AND THE RAIN STRIKE THE CLIPPER LIKE GIGANTIC FISTS. THE VESSEL PITCHES AND TOSSES IN THE HUGE WAVES —



AY DI MI! EET EES ALMOST CAVE EEN MY CHEST! CLOSE THEE PORTHOLE, TIM!

NO, CHITO! I'VE AN IDEA—!

I'LL WEAKEN THE HINGES WITH THESE BULLETS. THEN, ON THE NEXT ROLL OF THE SHIP, THE FORCE OF THOSE WAVES SHOULD SMASH OPEN THE DOOR...!

BLAMMM
BLAMMM!

AND THEN—

CHITO! DID YOU FEEL THAT ROLL? IT WAS MUCH WORSE THAN THE OTHERS!

LOOK! THE RUDDER'S GONE! IF IT ISN'T FIXED—THE SHIP WILL BE CAUGHT IN THE TROUGH OF THE WAVES—ROLLED OVER! WE'LL ALL BE LOST!

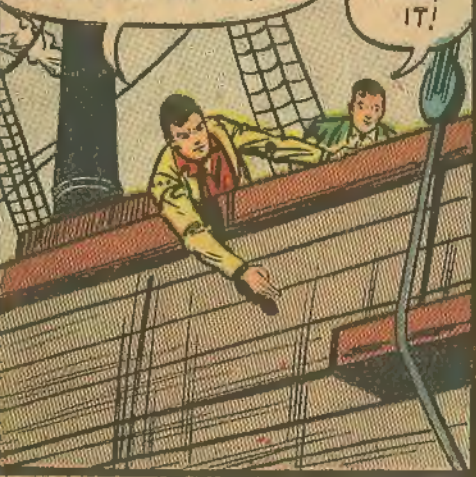
THE CAPTAIN! HE CAN FEEY IT!

AT THAT INSTANT, WHEN ONLY THE CAPTAIN CAN GIVE ORDERS THAT WILL SAVE ALL LIVES ON BOARD SHIP—

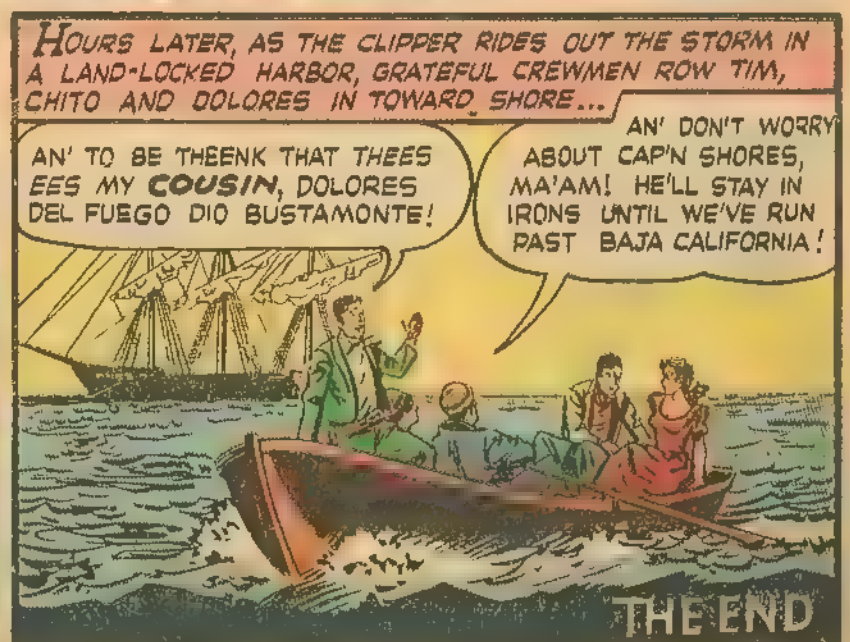
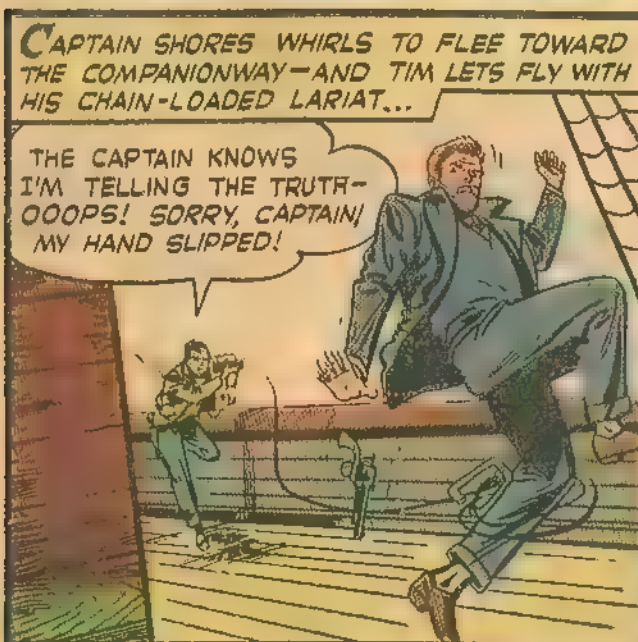
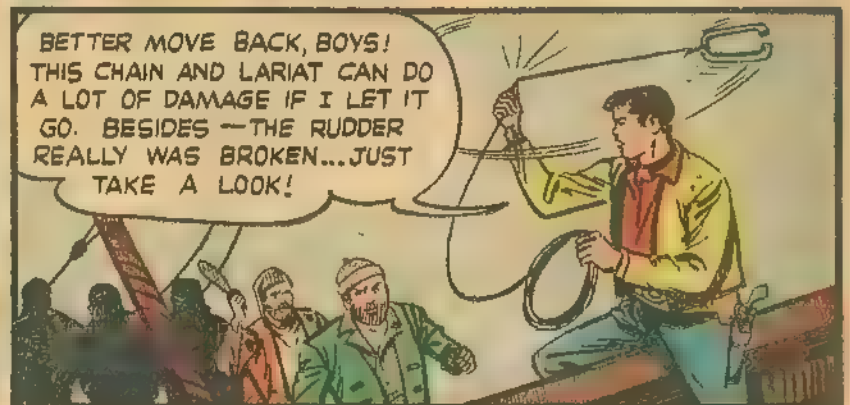
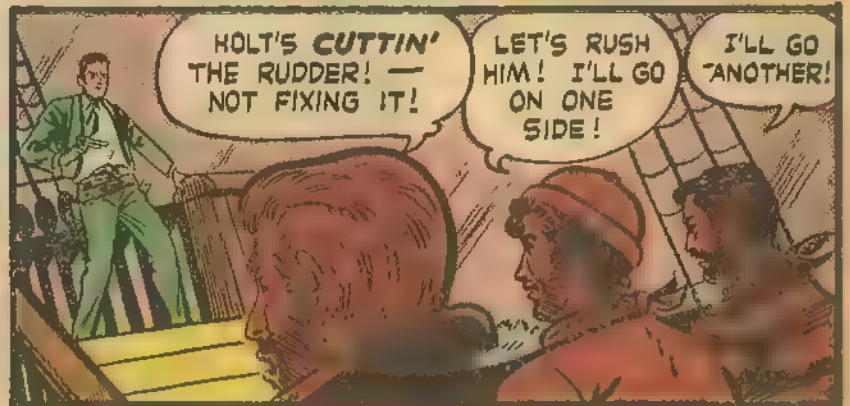
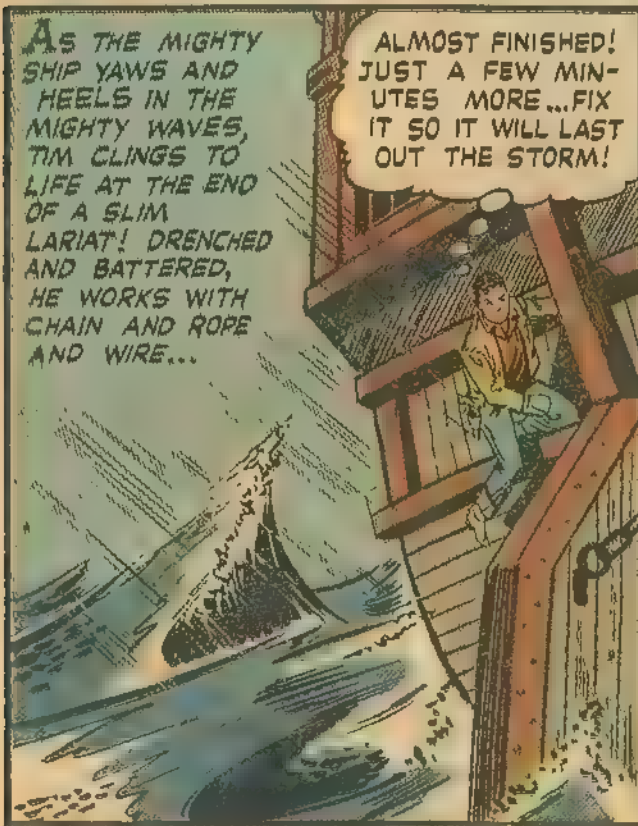
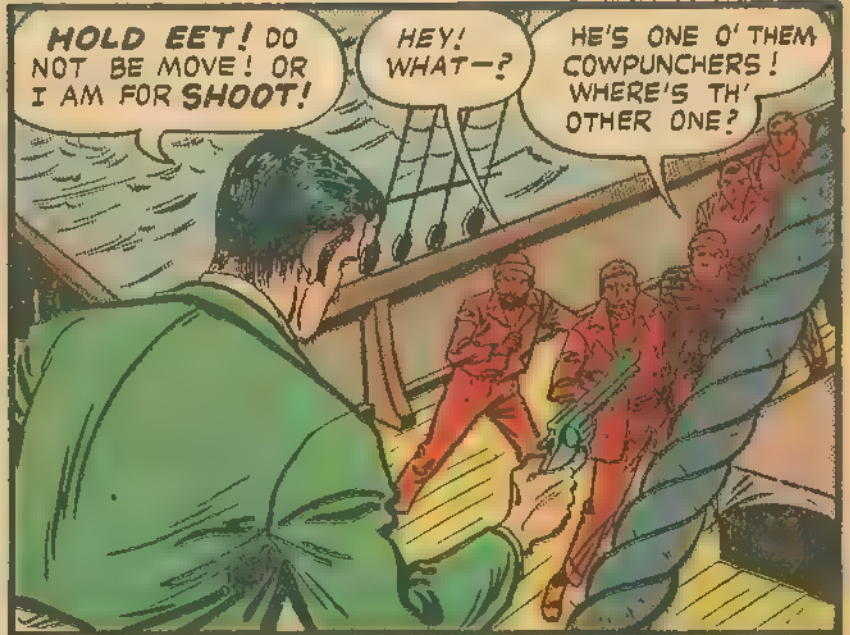
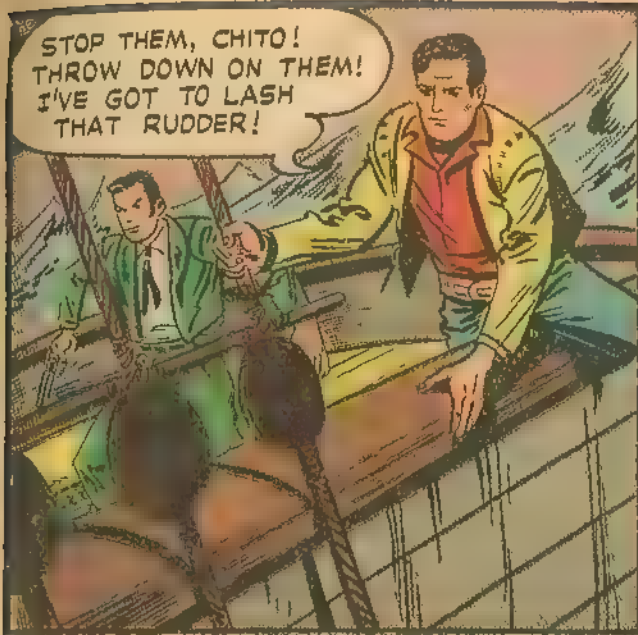
YOU WANTED THIS, CAP'N—HERE IT IS!

THE STORM YOU SAID **WOULDN'T** COME!

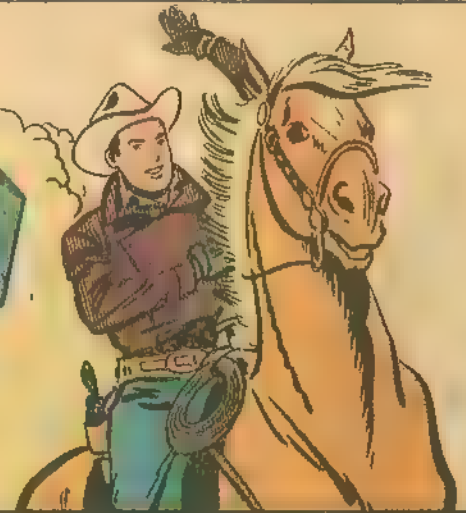
THEY ARE KEELING HEEM! CHOKEENG HEEM! BEATING HEEM TO DEATH!



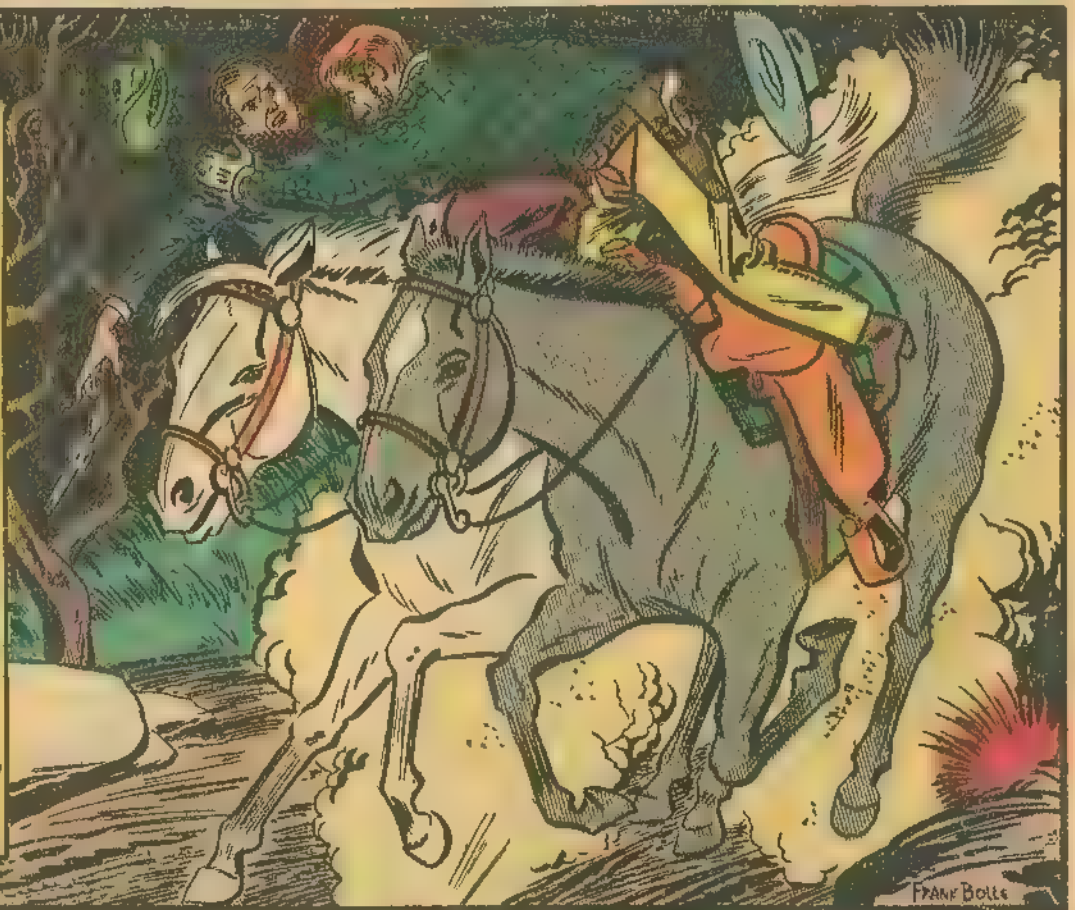
TIM HOLT



TIM HOLT

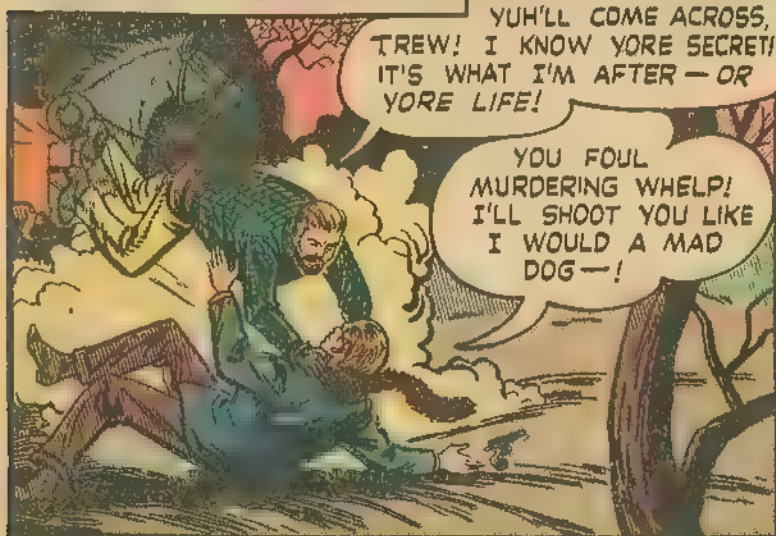


JIM TREW WAS A RANCHER NEW TO BULLET BASIN. THERE WAS NO REASON TO KILL HIM — THAT ANYONE KNEW. BUT WHEN ROD BUFORD THREW DOWN ON HIM WHEN HE FOUND TREW ALONE ON THE TRAIL, HE SET IN MOTION A DEADLY SEQUENCE OF EVENTS THAT WAS TO DRIVE HUB CONSTABLE FROM HIS HOME, AND SEND TIM HOLT RACING AFTER "THE PAINTED!" KILLER!



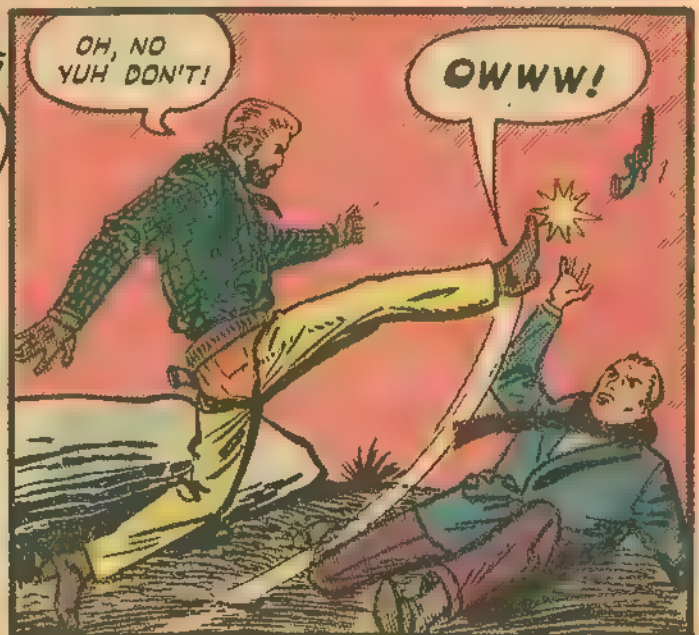
FRANK BOLLE

TWO MEN REEL AND STRUGGLE ON THE TRAIL TO BULLET. A MUFFLED SHOUT — A SNARL — AND TWO FORMS TOPPLE FROM THEIR SADDLES...



YUH'LL COME ACROSS, TREW! I KNOW YORE SECRET! IT'S WHAT I'M AFTER — OR YORE LIFE!

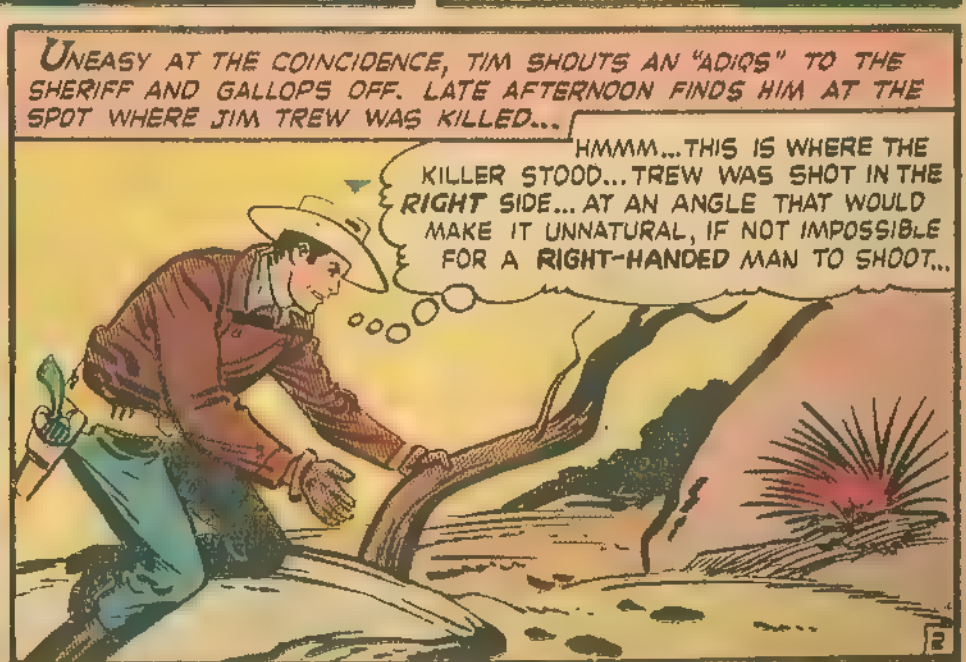
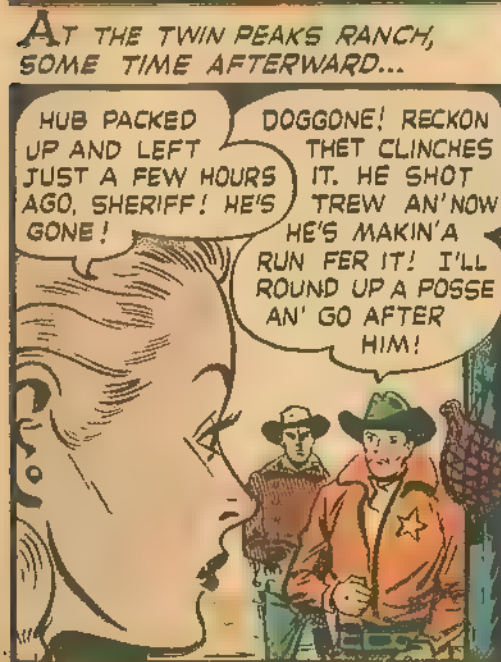
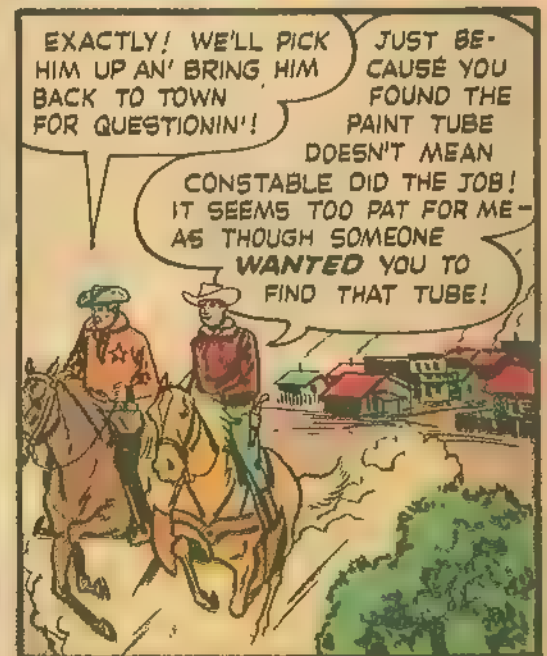
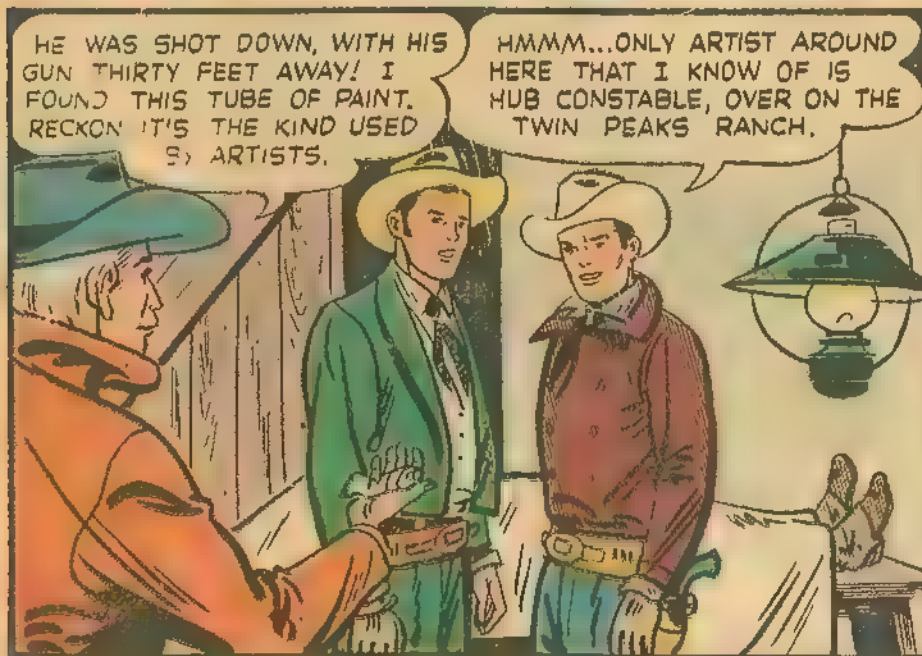
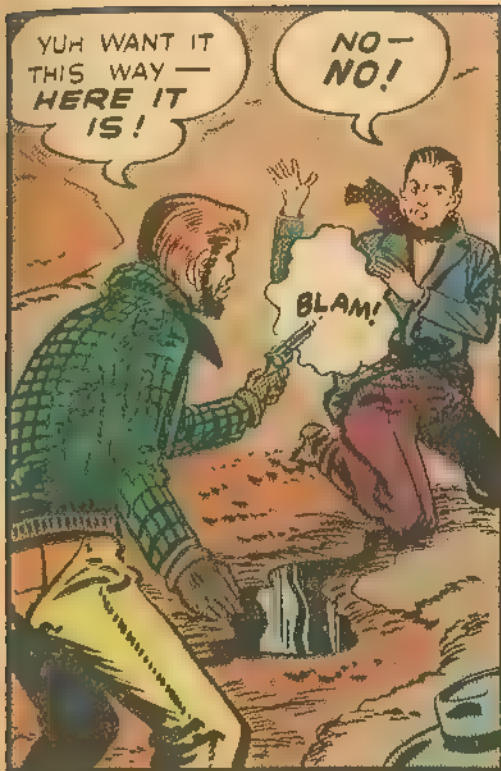
YOU FOUL MURDERING WHELP! I'LL SHOOT YOU LIKE I WOULD A MAD DOG —!



OH, NO YUH' DON'T!

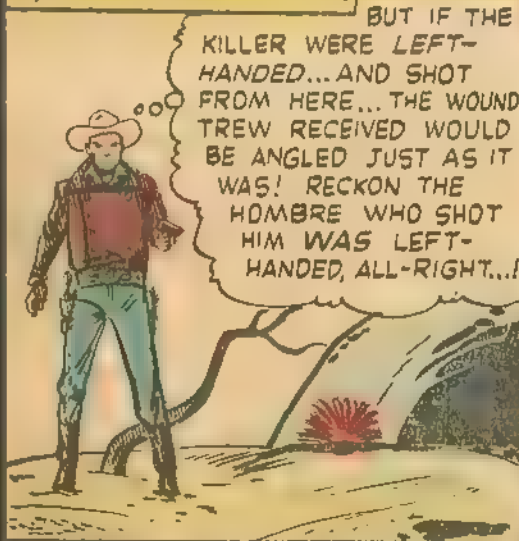
OWWW!

TIM HOLT



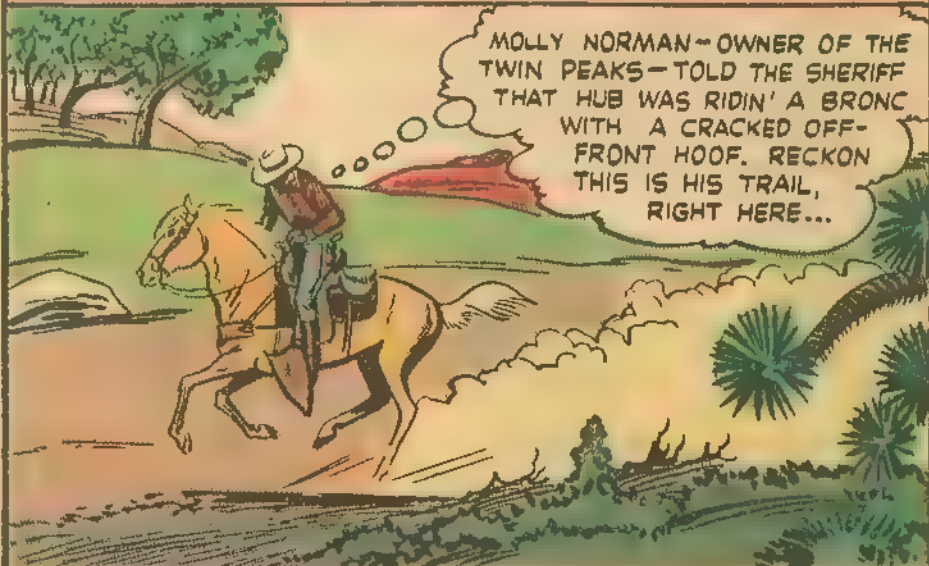
TIM HOLT

CAREFULLY PLANTING HIMSELF IN THE KILLER'S BOOT MARKS, TIM HOLDS HIS GUN IN HIS LEFT HAND...



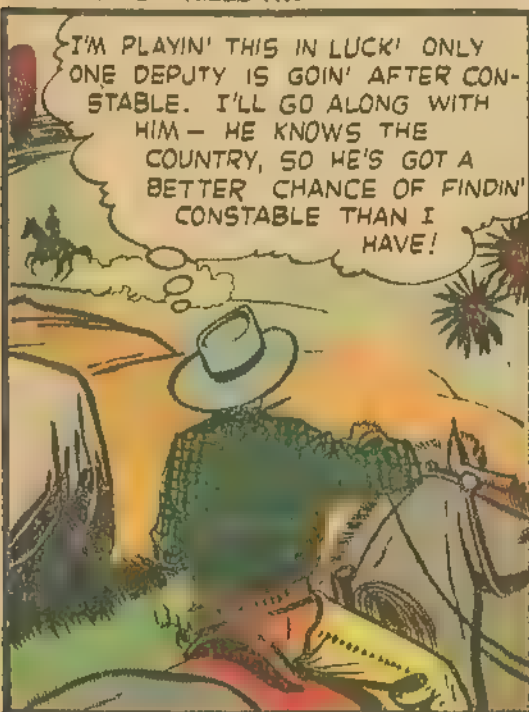
BUT IF THE KILLER WERE LEFT-HANDED... AND SHOT FROM HERE... THE WOUND TREW RECEIVED WOULD BE ANGLED JUST AS IT WAS! RECKON THE HOMBRE WHO SHOT HIM WAS LEFT-HANDED, ALL-RIGHT...!

A FEW MILES ABOVE THE TWIN PEAKS RANCH YARD, TIM PICKS UP THE TRACKS OF HUB CONSTABLE'S HORSE...



MOLLY NORMAN—OWNER OF THE TWIN PEAKS—TOLD THE SHERIFF THAT HUB WAS RIDIN' A BRONC WITH A CRACKED OFF-FRONT HOOF. RECKON THIS IS HIS TRAIL, RIGHT HERE...

TIM RIDES ON, UNAWARE THAT HE HIMSELF IS BEING FOLLOWED BY A THIN-LIPPED KILLER...



I'M PLAYIN' THIS IN LUCK! ONLY ONE DEPUTY IS GOIN' AFTER CONSTABLE. I'LL GO ALONG WITH HIM—HE KNOWS THE COUNTRY, SO HE'S GOT A BETTER CHANCE OF FINDIN' CONSTABLE THAN I HAVE!

HIGH IN THE TIMBER BELT, YOUNG HUB CONSTABLE IS TAUT WITH FEAR. HIS SHAKING HANDS LIFT A RIFLE AGAIN AND AGAIN...

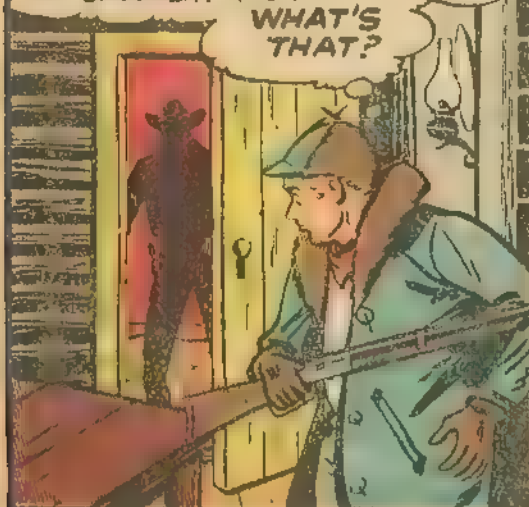


I'LL KILL HIM! I WON'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE. I'LL GUN HIM AS SOON AS I GET EYES ON HIM... IF I GET THE CHANCE...!

THAT HOMBRE HAS BEEN SHOOTIN' AT ME FOR THE LAST THREE, FOUR DAYS, EVER SINCE I WENT PAINTIN' UP IN THE RIPSAWS! I CAN'T TAKE NO MORE! I'M RIDIN' OUT OF THIS RANGE... SOON'S I GET SOME FOOD...



I GOT TO SHOOT ME AN ANTELOPE—JERKY THE MEAT—PACK IT ON MY SADDLER. THEN I—



WHAT'S THAT?

HIS NERVES MADE RAW BY NIGHTS OF SLEEPLESSNESS AND DAYS WHEN ANY MOMENT MIGHT BRING A DEATH-DEALING BULLET, HUB WHIRLS. HIS FINGER TIGHTENS ON HIS RIFLE TRIGGER...

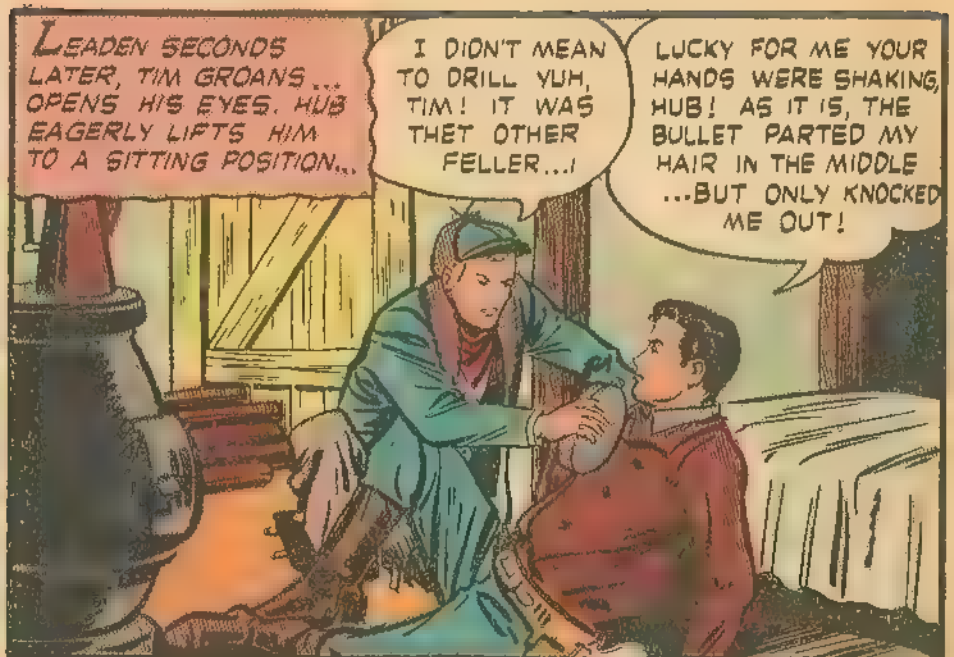


GOT YUH! I GOT YUH, YUH SNEAKIN' KILLER!

TIM HOLT



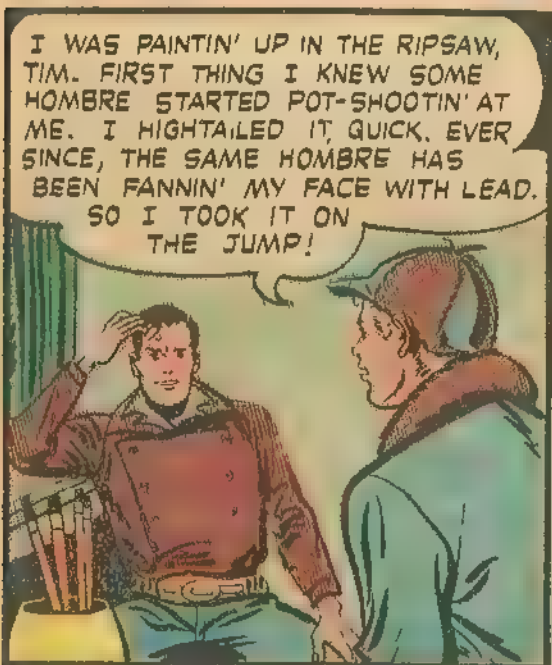
WHA-WHAT DID I DO! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOOT **YOU**, TIM! NOW-NOW I'M A KI-KILLER TOO!



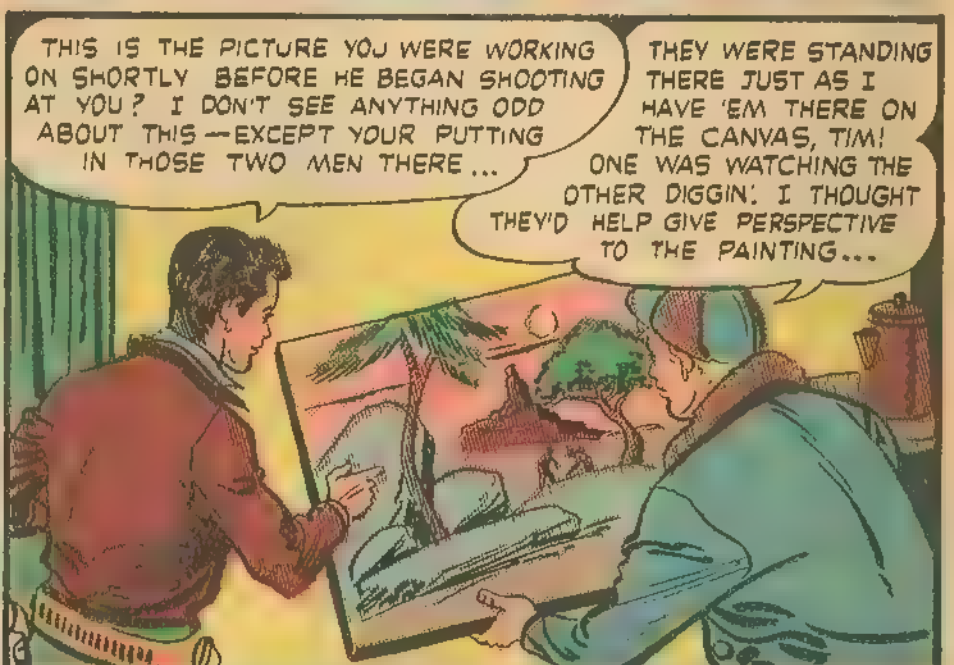
LEADEN SECONDS LATER, TIM GROANS... OPENS HIS EYES. HUB EAGERLY LIFTS HIM TO A SITTING POSITION...

I DIDN'T MEAN TO DRILL YUH, TIM! IT WAS THET OTHER FELLER...

LUCKY FOR ME YOUR HANDS WERE SHAKING, HUB! AS IT IS, THE BULLET PARTED MY HAIR IN THE MIDDLE ...BUT ONLY KNOCKED ME OUT!

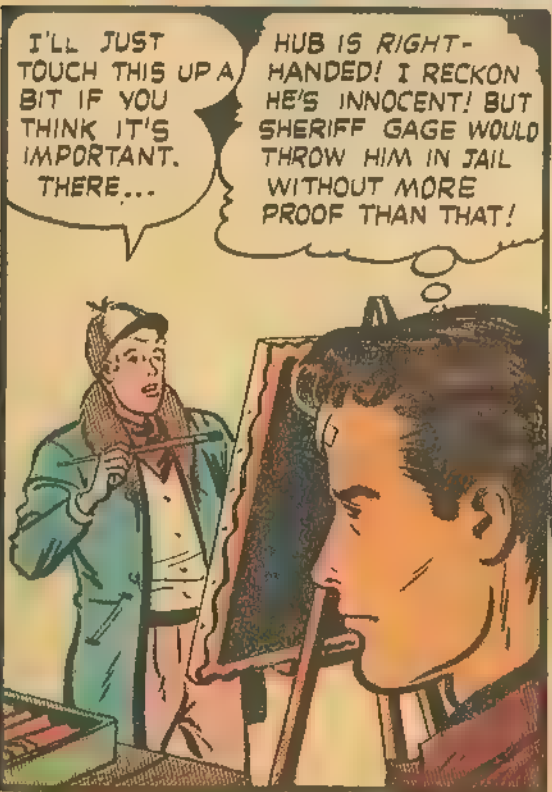


I WAS PAINTIN' UP IN THE RIPS AW, TIM. FIRST THING I KNEW SOME HOMBRE STARTED POT-SHOOTIN' AT ME. I HIGHTAILED IT, QUICK. EVER SINCE, THE SAME HOMBRE HAS BEEN FANNIN' MY FACE WITH LEAD. SO I TOOK IT ON THE JUMP!



THIS IS THE PICTURE YOU WERE WORKING ON SHORTLY BEFORE HE BEGAN SHOOTING AT YOU? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING ODD ABOUT THIS—EXCEPT YOUR PUTTING IN THOSE TWO MEN THERE...

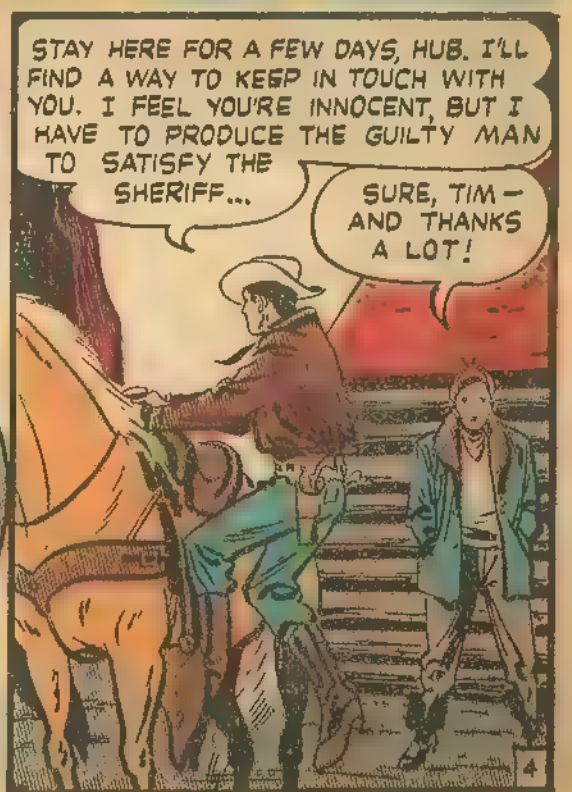
THEY WERE STANDING THERE JUST AS I HAVE 'EM THERE ON THE CANVAS, TIM! ONE WAS WATCHING THE OTHER DIGGIN'. I THOUGHT THEY'D HELP GIVE PERSPECTIVE TO THE PAINTING...



I'LL JUST TOUCH THIS UP A BIT IF YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT. THERE...

HUB IS RIGHT-HANDED! I RECKON HE'S INNOCENT! BUT SHERIFF GAGE WOULD THROW HIM IN JAIL WITHOUT MORE PROOF THAN THAT!

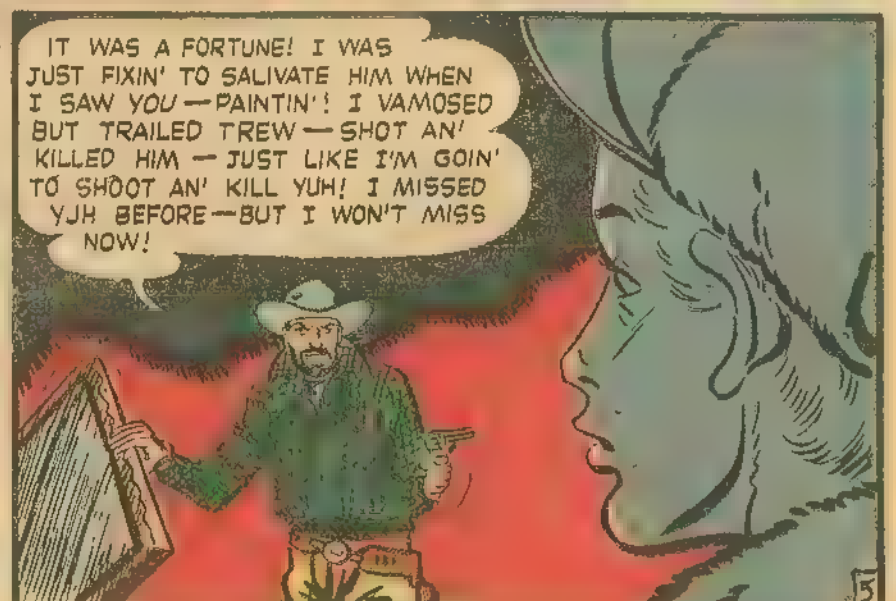
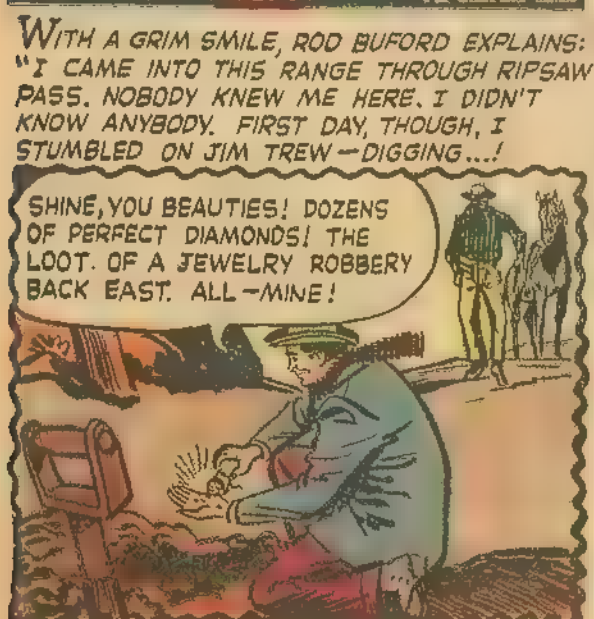
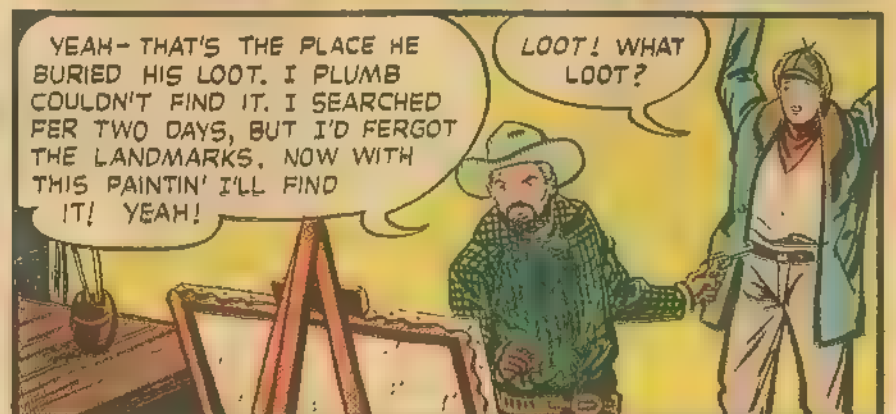
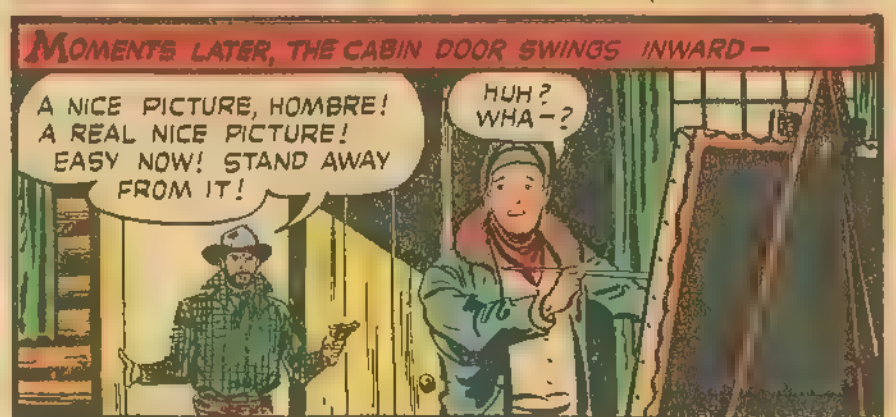
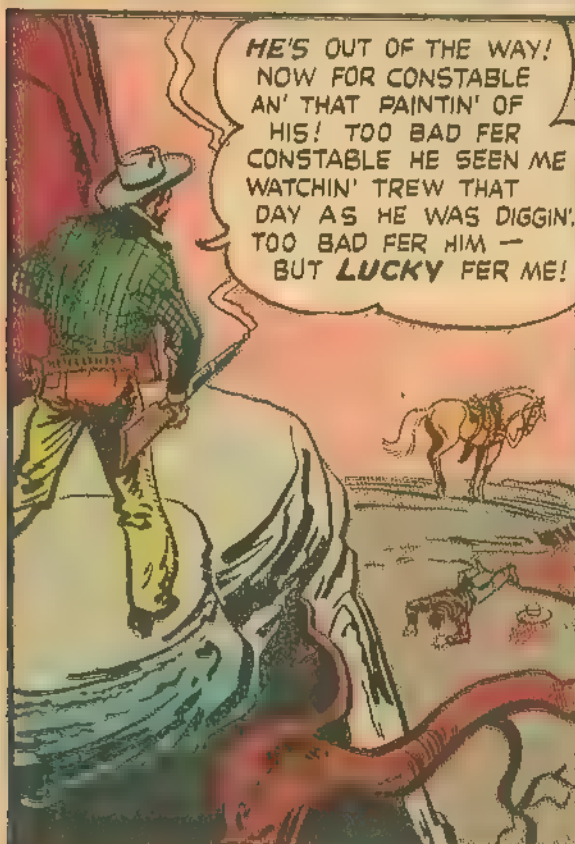
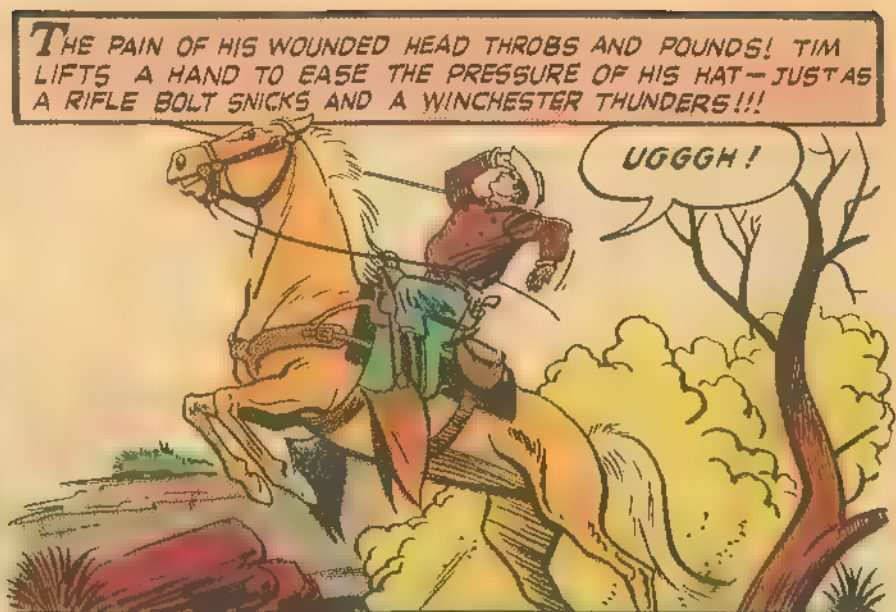
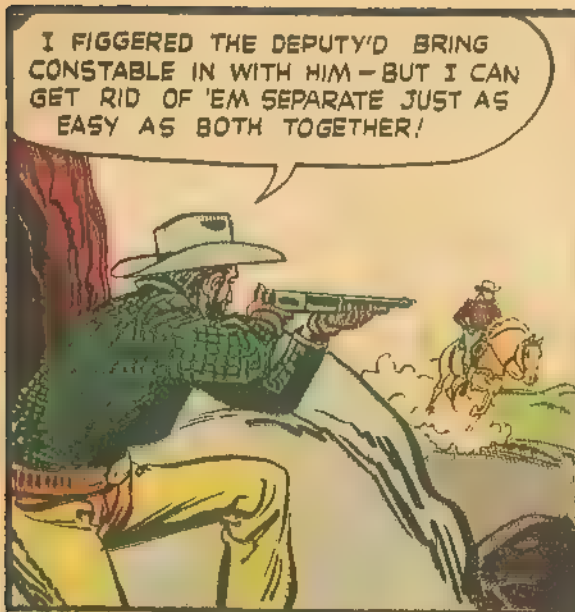
AS TIM LEAVES THE CABIN, HE IS WATCHED ACROSS THE VEE SIGHTS OF A RIFLE SOME TWO HUNDRED YARDS AWAY...



STAY HERE FOR A FEW DAYS, HUB. I'LL FIND A WAY TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU. I FEEL YOU'RE INNOCENT, BUT I HAVE TO PRODUCE THE GUILTY MAN TO SATISFY THE SHERIFF...

SURE, TIM—AND THANKS A LOT!

TIM HOLT



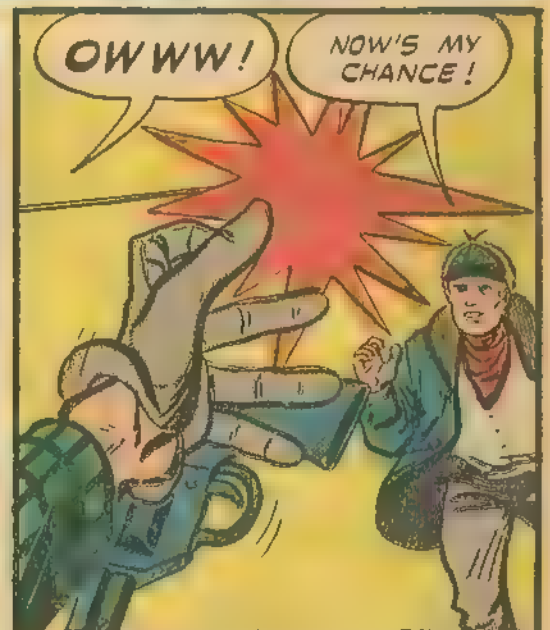
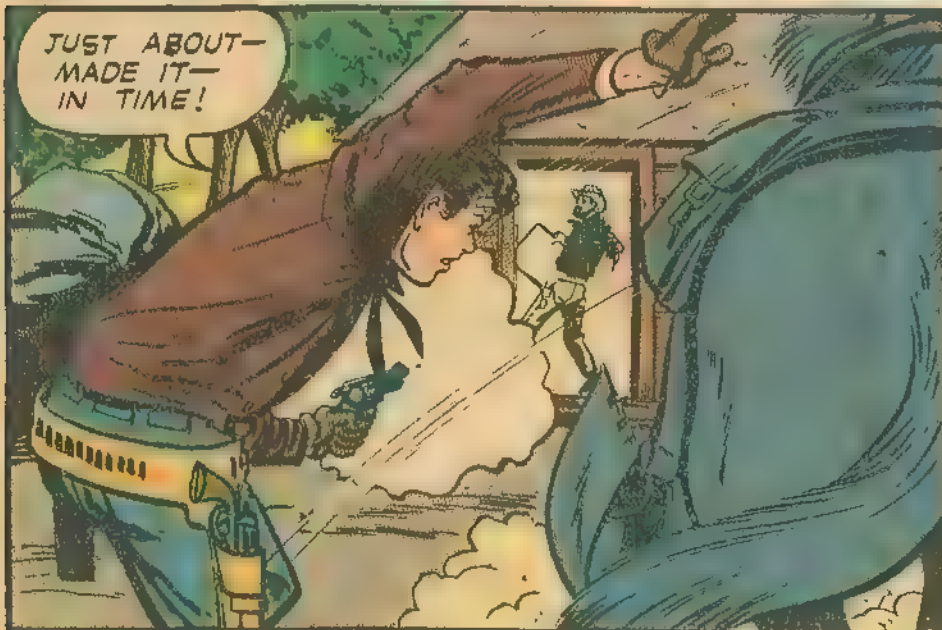
TIM HOLT

LESS THAN A MILE AWAY, TIM STIRS AND MOVES ALONG THE GROUND, PAIN THROBBING IN HEAD AND ARM.

SHOT AT TWICE! BUT I'M LUCKY I LIFTED MY ARM BACK THERE... OR THAT BULLET WOULD HAVE GONE RIGHT... INTO... MY HEART

FIGHTING THE SICK DIZZINESS THAT FILLS HIM, TIM CLINGS TO SADDLE AND STIRRUP —

RUN, BOY— TAKE ME TO THAT CABIN ...BEFORE THAT MAD KILLER... GETS... HUB CONSTABLE... HE PLANTED THE PAINT TUBE TO GET US TO TRACK DOWN HUB ... HOPING HUB WOULD BE JAILED... BUT I RECKON HE'S FIGURED THAT'S TOO SLOW...



TIM HOLT

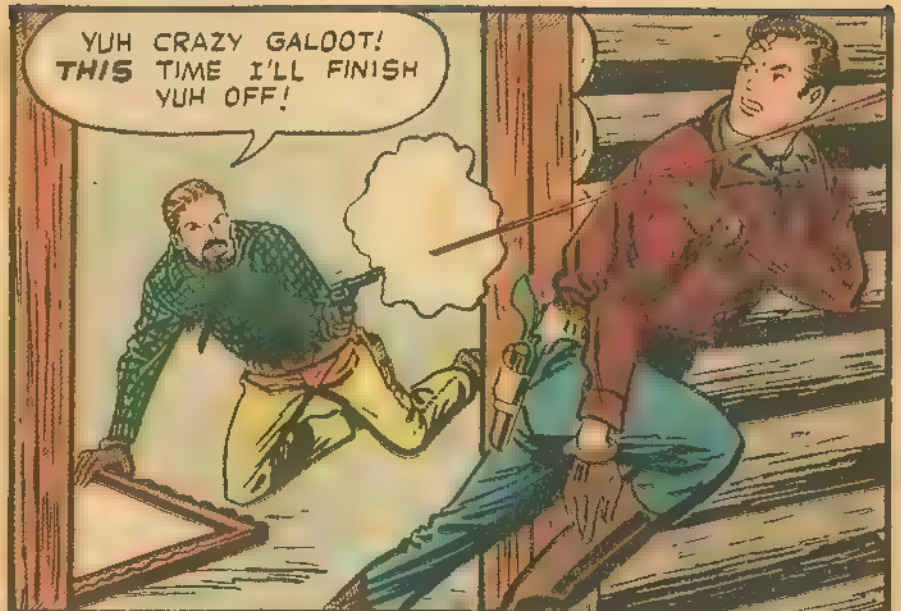
LIKE AN ENRAGED WILDCAT, TIM FORGETS HIS PAIN! HE CATAPULTS HIMSELF AT THE KILLER! RAMS HIM WITH A MUSCLE STUDDED SHOULDER!

OWWFF!

RECKON - YOU HAVE JUST ABOUT - COME TO THE END OF THE TRAIL!



YUH CRAZY GALOOT! THIS TIME I'LL FINISH YUH OFF!



ALTHOUGH THE SHOCK OF HIS FALL NUMBS HIS RIGHT SIDE, TIM LASHES OUT WITH HIS FOOT —

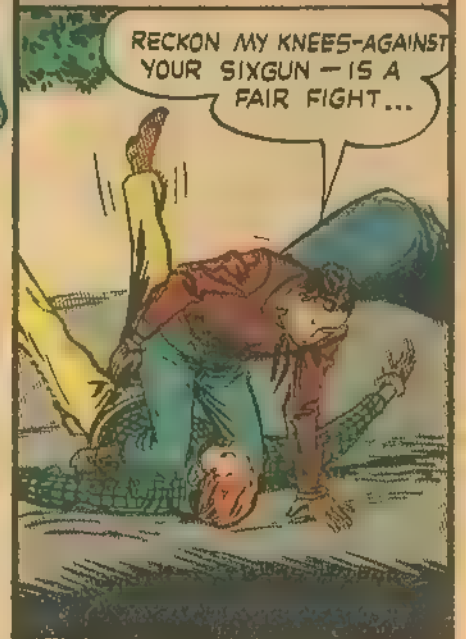


NO, YOU DON'T!

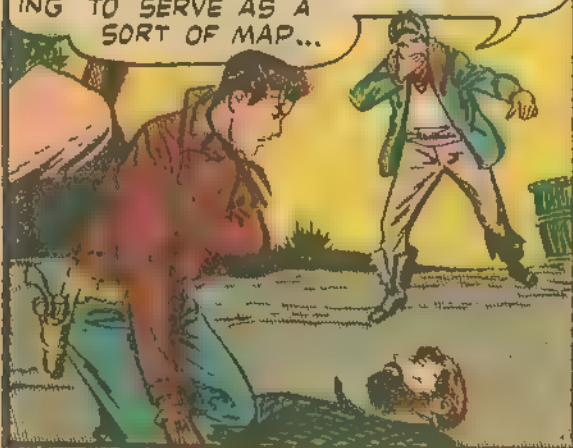


TIM LIFTS HIS FEET IN A WILD CONTORTION AS HE THUDS DOWN ON THE WILDLY STRUGGLING BUFORD. THE KILLER CRIES OUT SHARPLY... AND GOES LIMP...

RECKON MY KNEES-AGAINST YOUR SIXGUN - IS A FAIR FIGHT...



HE SHOT TREW. HE TOLD ME TREW HAD DIAMONDS HIDDEN. TREW WAS A CROOK BACK EAST WHO CAME OUT HERE UNTIL THE HEAT DIED DOWN! BUT BUFORD COULDN'T FIND WHERE TREW BURIED THE DIAMONDS. HE WANTED MY PAINTING TO SERVE AS A SORT OF MAP...



THAT WAS WHY HE WANTED TO KILL YOU, HUB. YOU WERE THE ONLY MAN IN THE BASIN WHO EVER SAW HIM, OUTSIDE OF TREW. AND TREW IS DEAD. HE'D HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT... IF YOU HADN'T WOUNDED ME SO I WOULD LIFT MY ARM AND SAVE MY LIFE WHEN HE SHOT ME!



RECKON WE CAN BOTH RIDE DOWN TO BULLET NOW, TIM. YOU WITH YOUR PRISONER - AN' ME WITHOUT THE FEAR OF BEING SHOT!

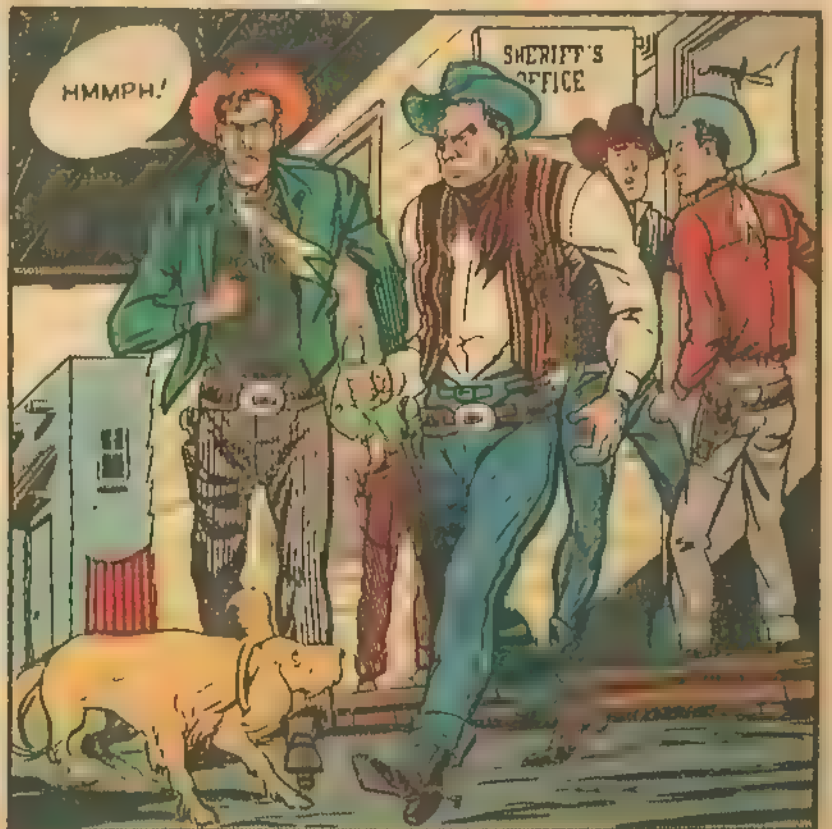
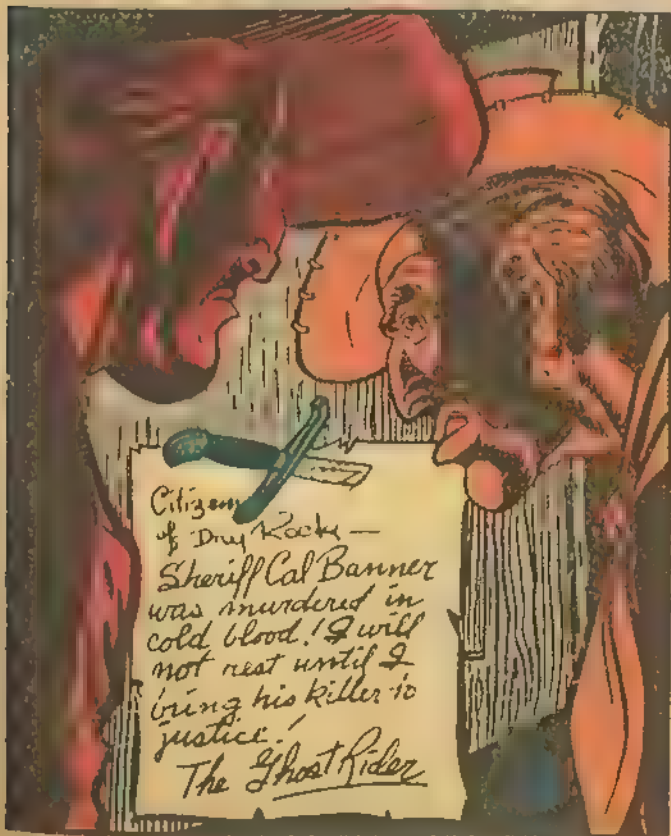
END

the GHOST RIDER

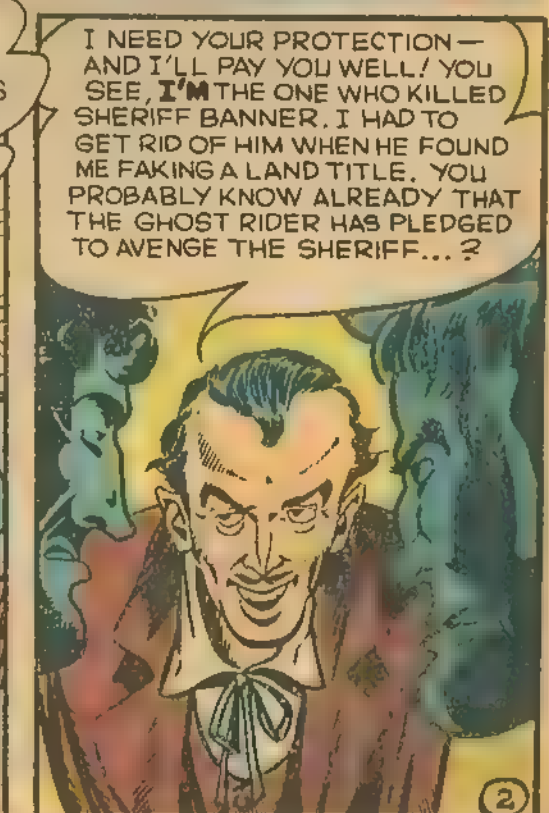
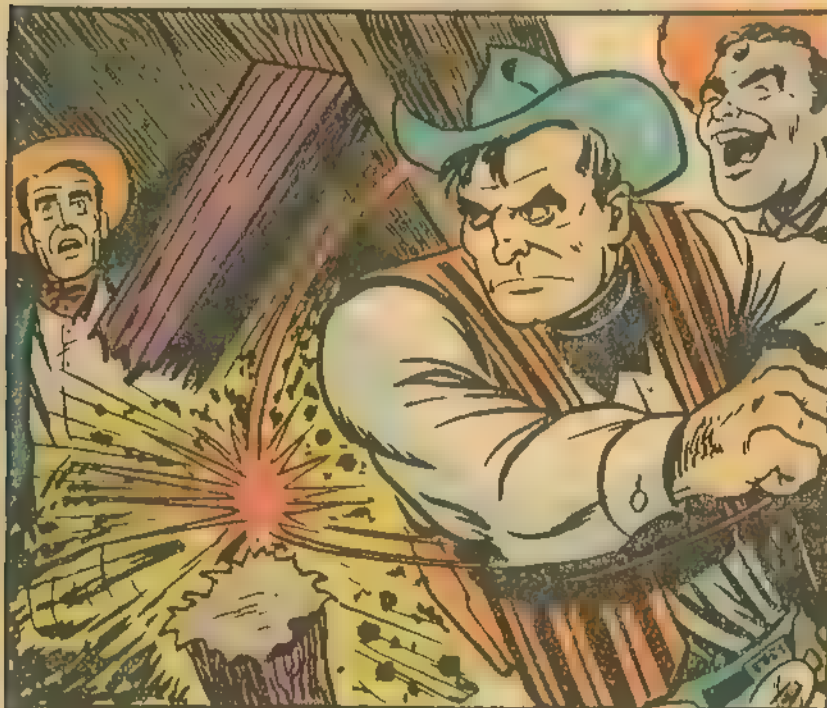
THE GHOST RIDER, SPECTRAL NEMESIS OF JUSTICE, BRINGS ANOTHER CRIMINAL TO THE END OF A KILLER'S CAREER. STRIKING NERVE-CURDLING TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF HIS ENEMIES, THE GHOST RIDER TAKES HIS SKILLFUL KNOWLEDGE OF THE MINDS OF MEN — AND ADDS IT TO THE WHIP OF GUILTY CONSCIENCE IN **"SCOURGE OF GUILT!"**

THE DEAD ONES RISE TO CONDEMN YOUR CRIME, MURDERER.

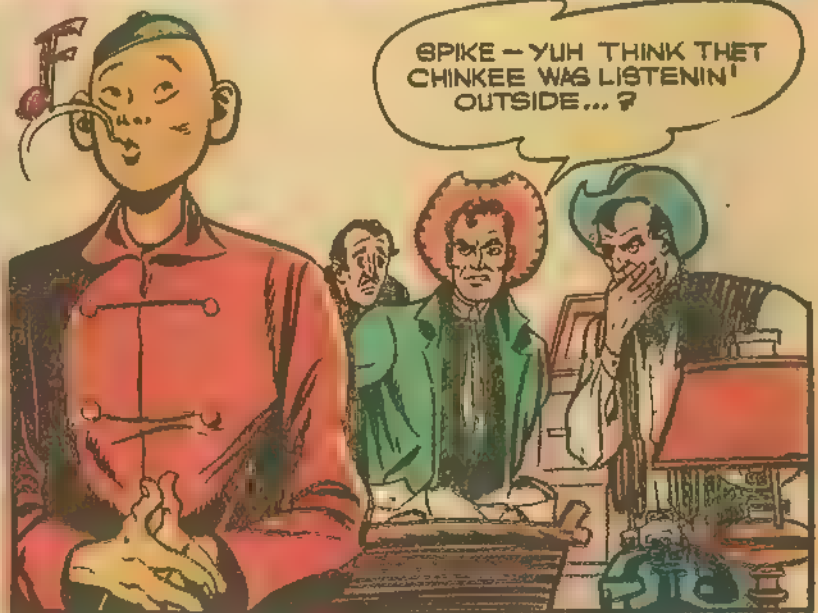
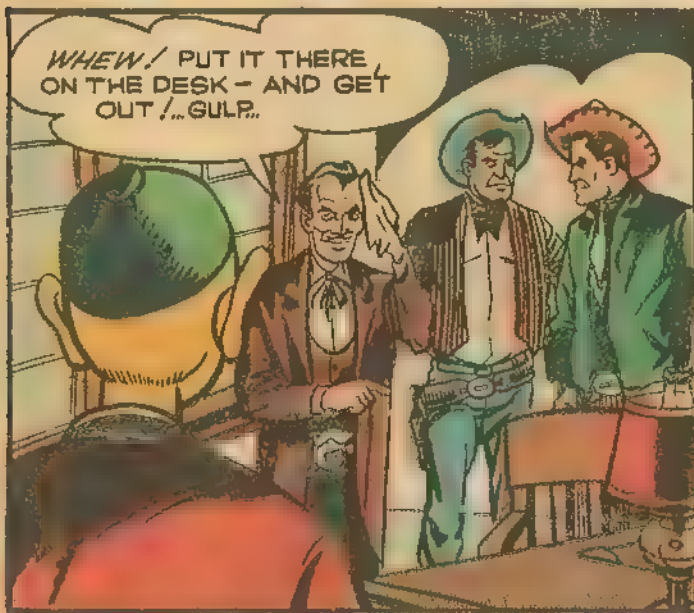
GHOSTS!
GHOSTS!
GHOSTS!



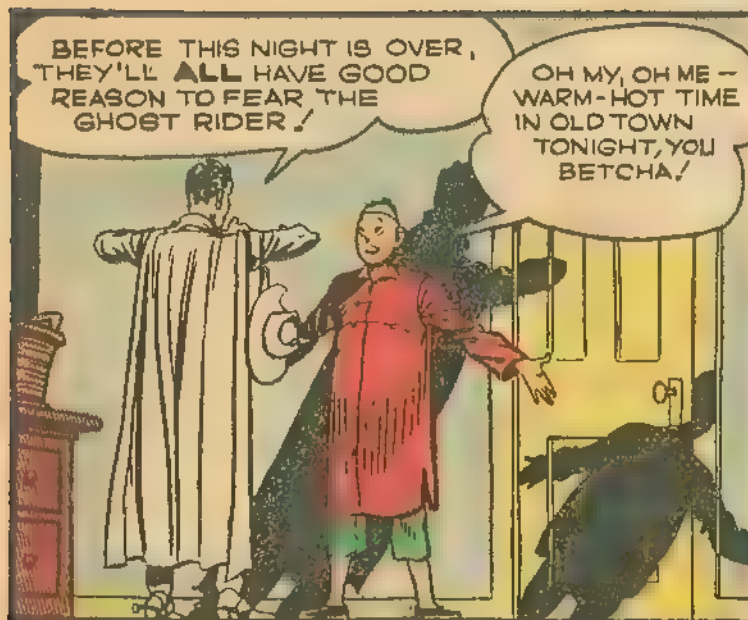
TIM HOLT



TIM HOLT

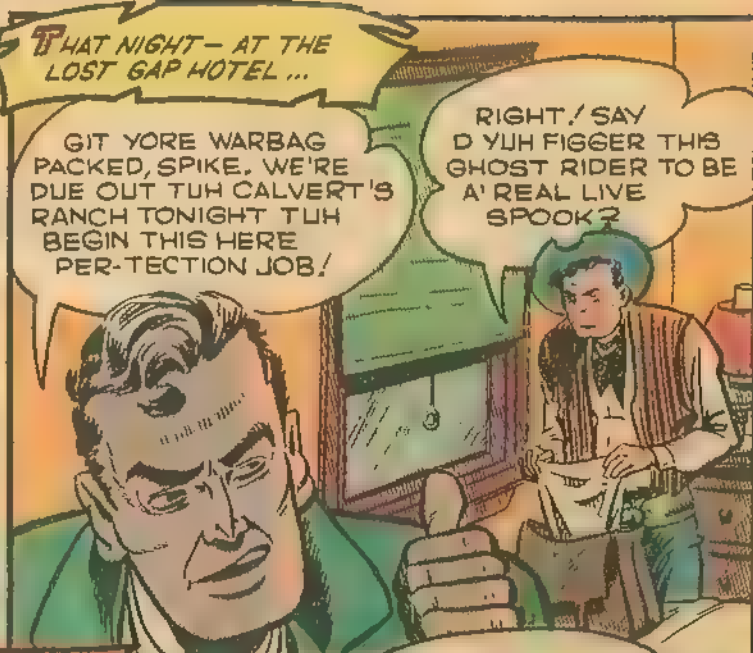


TIM HOLT



BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS OVER, THEY'LL ALL HAVE GOOD REASON TO FEAR THE GHOST RIDER!

OH MY, OH ME - WARM-HOT TIME IN OLD TOWN TONIGHT, YOU BETCHA!



THAT NIGHT - AT THE LOST GAP HOTEL ...

GIT YORE WARBAK PACKED, SPIKE. WE'RE DUE OUT TUH CALVERT'S RANCH TONIGHT TUH BEGIN THIS HERE PER-TECTION JOB!

RIGHT! SAY D YUH FIGGER THIS GHOST RIDER TO BE A' REAL LIVE SPOOK?



NOW WHUT KIND O' TALK IS THET? THAR AIN'T NO SECH THING AS SPOOKS! YUH TURNIN' SOFT ON ME?

AW, I WUZ JIST FUNNIN' PARDNER! IT'LL TAKE A HEAP SIGHT MORE'N A OLD SPOOK TUH SKEER ME!



BUT, SUDDENLY!

HEY! WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?



THE GHOST RIDER!

IT IS I - HE WHO RIDES IN DARKNESS, IN THE BLACK OF NIGHT, AND THE GLOOM OF THE GRAVE!



DIDYA GIT 'IM?

YUH KIDDIN'? AFORE I EVEN STARTED SHOOTIN', HE JIST SORTA - GULP - DISAPPEARED!

THE BLACK SIDE OF MY CAPE CERTAINLY COMES IN HANDY FOR THE OLD VANISHING ACT! BUT, NOW TO WORK ...

THOUGH I BE INVISIBLE, STUPID ONES - THOUGH I BE OF MIST AND SPIRIT - STILL YOU MAY FEEL MY FISTS!



TIM HOLT



GOT 'IM!

I GOT 'IM, TOO!



HOLD STILL, SPOOK!

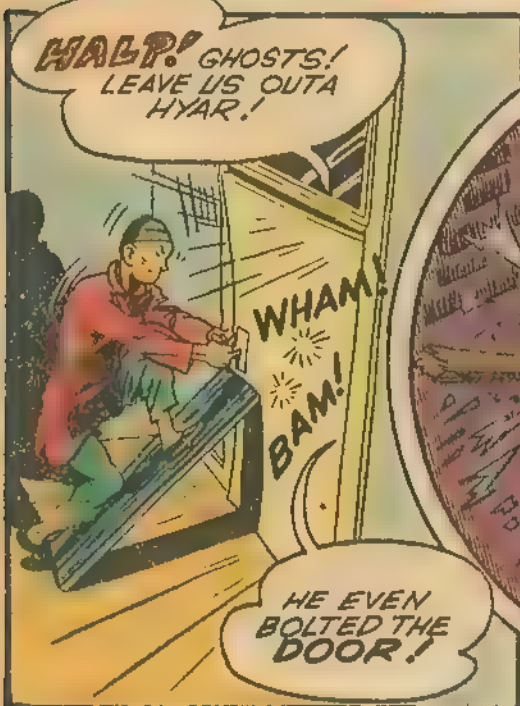
PUFF - PUFF! *WHEW!*

QUICK! I GOT 'IM BY THE NECK!

YORE
NECK? THEN
WHAR'S THE
GHOST?

LAY OFF -- THAT'S MY NECK!

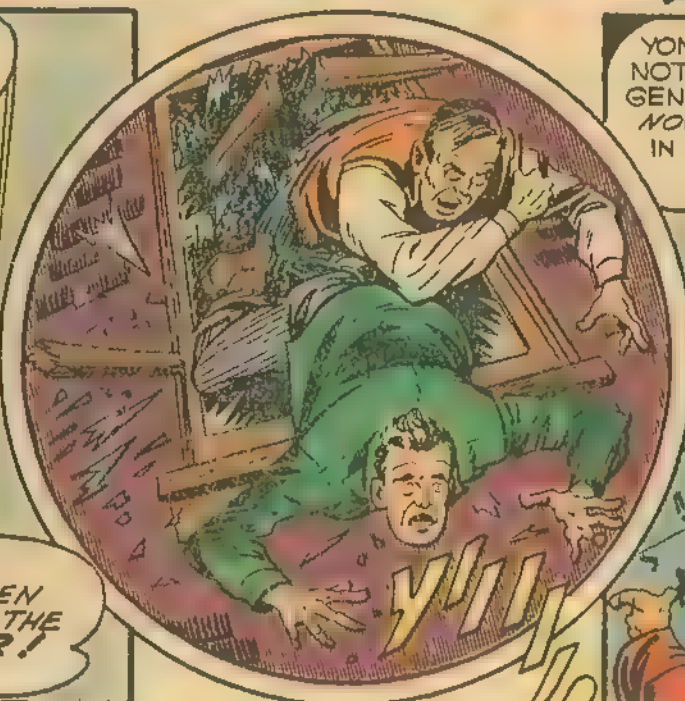
LET'S GIT OUTA HERE!



HALP! GHOSTS! LEAVE US OUTA HYAR!

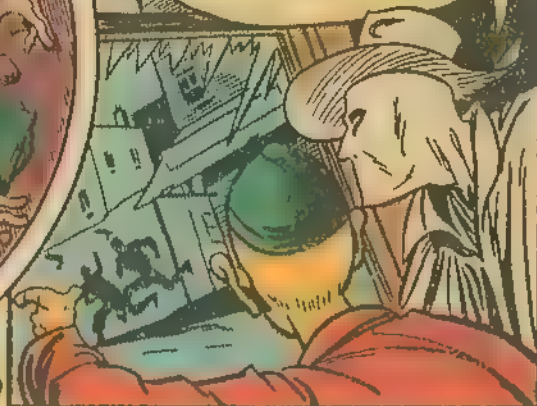
WHAM!
BAM!

HE EVEN BOLTED THE DOOR!



YONDER GOT TWO NOT-SO-HONORABLE GENNELMEN WHO NOW BELIEVE IN GHOSTS!

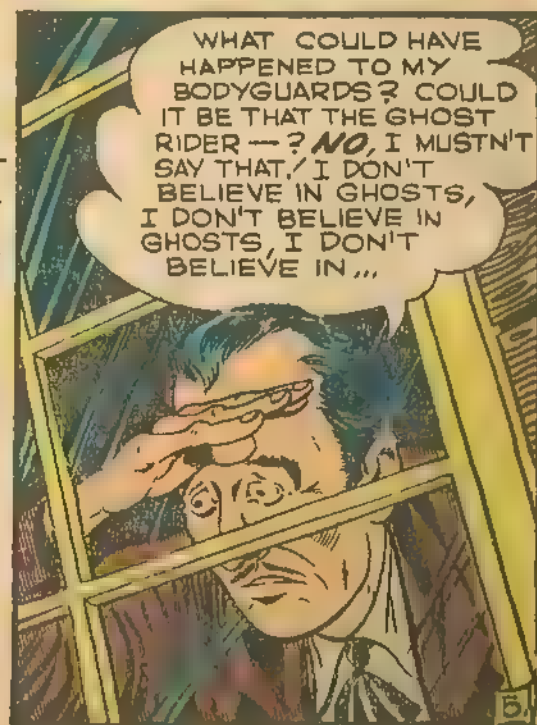
THAT'S THE LAST THIS TOWN WILL EVER SEE OF **THEM!** BUT THIS NIGHT'S WORK IS NOT YET DONE, SING SONG!



THERE REMAINS -- JEB CALVERT! THIS NIGHT, JUSTICE CLAIMS ITS OWN! AND JUSTICE WILL RIDE ON THE WINGS OF **GUILT AND FEAR!**

THE
GHOST RIDER KNOWS THE MINDS OF MEN -- FOR FEAR CLOSES ITS ICY FIST AROUND JEB CALVERT'S HEART...

AT CALVERT'S RANCHHOUSE ...



WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO MY BODYGUARDS? COULD IT BE THAT THE GHOST RIDER -- ? **NO**, I MUSTN'T SAY THAT, I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS, I DON'T BELIEVE IN ...

TIM HOLT



THE GHOST
RIDER!
AI-EE-EE-EE-EE!



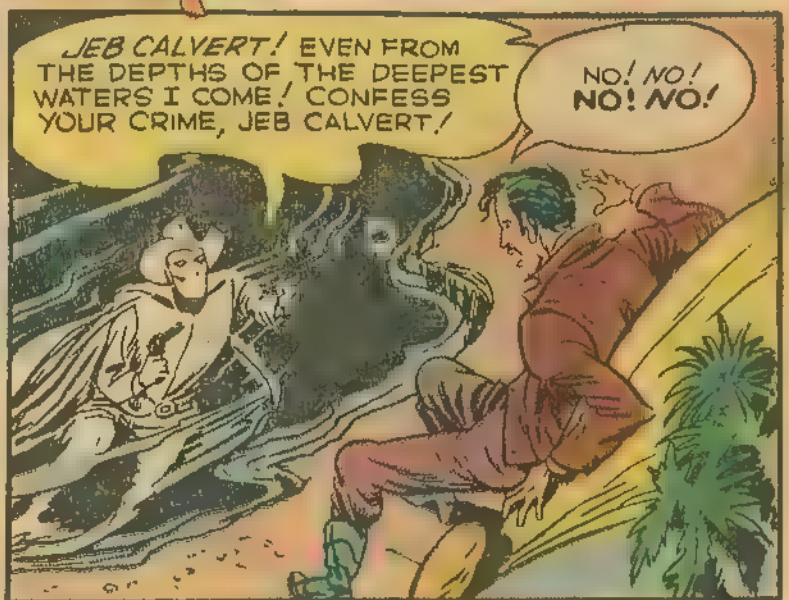
I HAVE COME FOR YOU,
MURDERER OF SHERIFF
BANNER! YOU MAY FLEE
TO THE ENDS OF THE
EARTH, BUT YOU
CANNOT ESCAPE ME!



NO! HE'LL NEVER GET ME!
NEVER! I'LL RIDE TO DEVIL'S
HOLE — NO ONE KNOWS
THAT SPOT BUT ME!



I LOST HIM!
SAFE! (SOB) SAFE
AT LAST!



JEB CALVERT! EVEN FROM
THE DEPTHS OF THE DEEPEST
WATERS I COME! CONFESS
YOUR CRIME, JEB CALVERT!

NO! NO!
NO! NO!



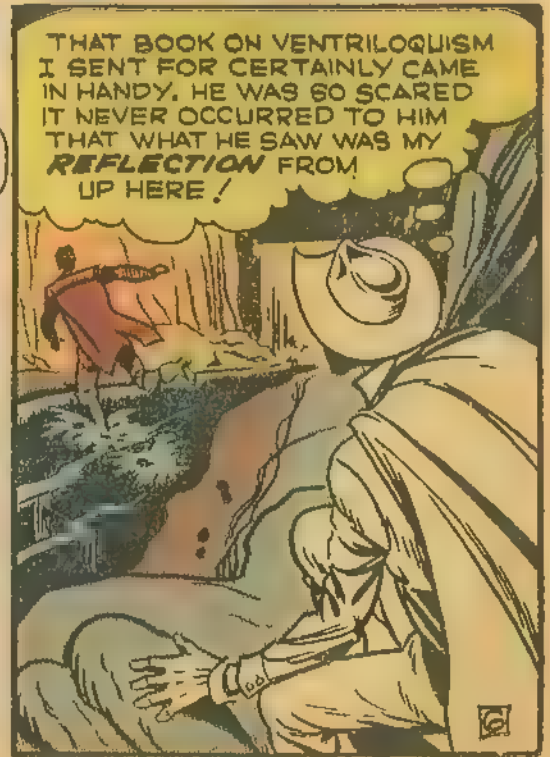
I'LL KILL YOU
FIRST! I'LL GET
YOU—I'LL GET
YOU!

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!



YOU CANNOT KILL
THE ALREADY DEAD,
JEB CALVERT!

HE'S STILL THERE!
I'M GOING MAD, MAD!
I'VE GOT TO GET
AWAY, GOT TO...!



THAT BOOK ON VENTRILOQUISM
I SENT FOR CERTAINLY CAME
IN HANDY. HE WAS SO SCARED
IT NEVER OCCURRED TO HIM
THAT WHAT HE SAW WAS MY
REFLECTION FROM
UP HERE!

TIM HOLT

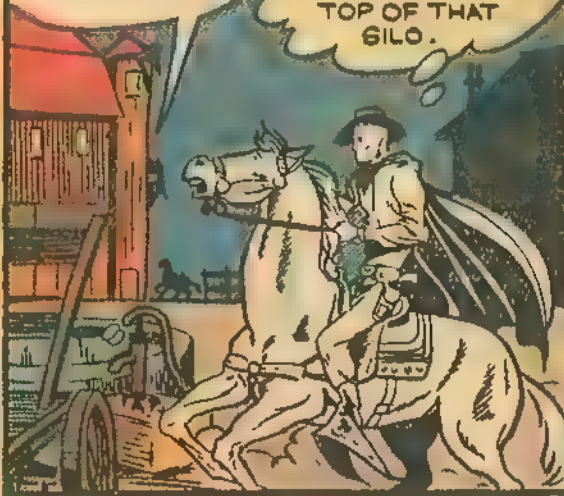
CRAZED WITH FEAR AND GUILT, CALVERT TWISTS AND TURNS IN HIS MAD FLIGHT — BUT IT SEEMS THE GHOST RIDER IS EVERYWHERE.

NO LONGER ABLE TO REASON SANELY, HE CLIMBS A SILO.

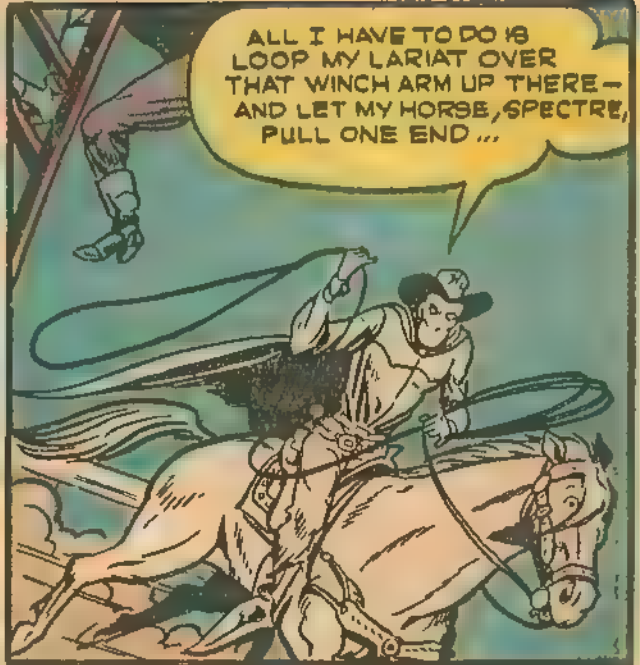


I'LL BE SAFE UP HERE, ONLY WAY UP IS THIS LADDER AND I CAN DEFEND THAT!

NOW, THAT'S A CRAZY THING FOR HIM TO DO — THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO BEAT HIM TO THE TOP OF THAT SILO.



ALL I HAVE TO DO IS LOOP MY LARIAT OVER THAT WINCH ARM UP THERE — AND LET MY HORSE, SPECTRE, PULL ONE END ...



.. AND I GET LIFTED UP LIKE A BALE OF HAY. MY LARIAT, BEING SPECIALLY DYED BLACK, IS *INVISIBLE* — CALVERT WILL THINK I'M FLYING!

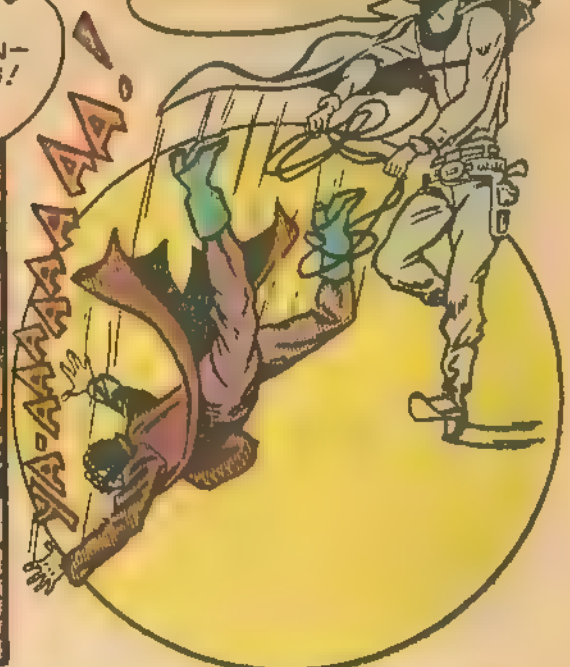


HIGH OR LOW, STILL I COME, JEB CALVERT! CONFESS! GIVE UP!



THIS FIEND FLIES! HE IS A GHOST! THERE'S NO USE GOING ON — NO USE LIVING! I'LL JUMP!

NO, JEB CALVERT! WE WILL GO DOWN TOGETHER!

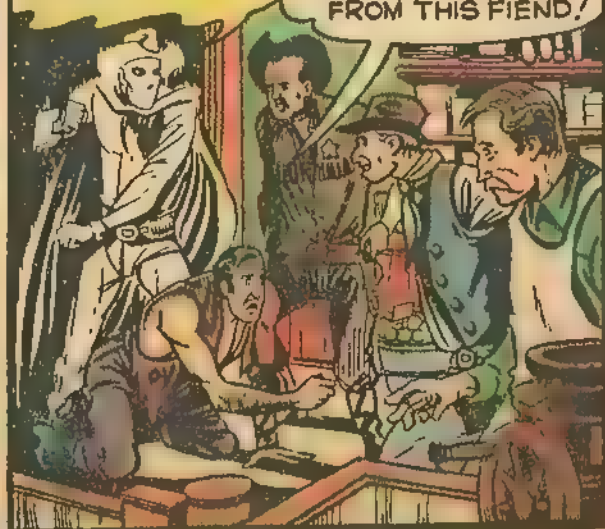


AND WE'LL GO BACK TO TOWN AND TO JUSTICE TOGETHER!



HERE HE IS, CITIZENS — THE MURDERER OF SHERIFF BANNER! THE GHOST RIDER NEVER FAILS!

YES, I DID IT! I DID IT! JAIL ME, KILL ME. — ANYTHING! JUST GET ME AWAY FROM THIS FIEND!





JIM THURLOW shifted his weight in the Pueblo saddle so that the stiff leather creaked. He put a shaking hand to his blue shirt and rubbed the sweat off his palm. He was afraid: afraid of the lurking *something* that lay in the timbered slopes of the Horsehead Mountains, all around him, afraid of the fate that might await him as it had awaited so many others. Even the weight of his heavy Colt revolver against his thigh brought no reassurance.

A dead man lay huddled in a crushed cactus at the hoofs of his bay gelding. The dead man had been a friend, a little rancher with whom he had laughed back in Natahatchi. On his face was the burned imprint of a branding iron in the shape of a hook. The dead man was the fifth such man that Jim Thurlowe had found in the last two months.

"Might be I was plumb hasty in takin' over this marshal job," he told the gelding. "Now I got to go on up there — back into the high hills — and try to learn what hombre is stamp-in' dead men with a hook iron."

He eased himself out of the kak and lifted down a short spade from his saddle roll. He dug a shallow grave and covered it with stones. Then he drew a sleeve across his damp forehead and squinted thoughtfully at the setting sun.

"Don't cotton to the idea of bein' alone up here at night, but I reckon I can't ride back down to Natahatchi without some sort of action to show for my ride. Folks have been

askin' embarrassin' questions about me, lately. They want to know who's been doin' all the killin' and brandin' up here on Horsehead."

Sighing, Thurlowe stepped into the stirrup and swung up. He eased the bay forward under the firs and the cedars, moving steadily upward along a carpet of fallen pine needles. As he rode, he loosened the revolver in its holster at his side.

The killings—all five of them, all with the hook brand etched into their faces with a red-hot branding iron—had begun a little over two months ago. Prior to the first killing, the small ranchers on the slopes of Horsehead Mountain had reported cattle missing. There had been no clues as to where they had gone, but one rancher told Thurlowe that he was "fixin' to ride straight up old Horsehead. Them steers got to be somewhere. If they ain't below my spread, they sure got to be above it!" Two days later, the rancher's body, riddled with shells and branded on the cheek, had been discovered.

"It was right after that when the folks got scared," the marshall brooded. "Two other hombres turned up the same way—shot and branded! Those hooks on their faces—burned deep! Hooks of horror, everybody called 'em."

And now old Ed Silliman lay in a shallow grave, back there a few miles. Number five in the hook-brand mystery! A cold wind came down out of the Horsehead pines and made

TIM HOLT

Jim Thurlowe shiver. Would he be—*number six?*

He was bending his head to pass under the curving branch of a giant conifer when something thin and wet whipped across his face—

Jim Thurlowe screamed. Whatever it was stung and bit, and clung like a living thing to his chin and throat! After a moment it slipped down off his chin, circling his neck. It tightened, squeezing! Thurlowe heard a low roaring in his ears, saw tiny red globes of pain swim up before his staring eyes!

His hands clawed at the thing. In the darkness he had not recognized it. Now his fingers knew it as a lariat, dipped in water. And then, just when his fingers were ripping at it to loosen it, the red pain swam up all around him, knocking him backwards into a roaring blackness. . . .

Jim Thurlowe opened his eyes to the red dance of a campfire. Three men were watching him carefully, their cruel little eyes bright in the firelight. One was an Indian with black, dank hair framing his flat, coppery face, his muscular arms bare and long. The others were heavy-browed, their faces revealing the greeds and hungers that directed their every move. In them, Thurlowe recognized typical outlaws.

One of the white men, a man with a dotted neckerchief hanging around his neck, kicked suddenly at a branding iron buried in the glowing red logs of the fire. His grin was sly.

He asked, "Yuh been shadowin' us long enough to have known yore way in an' out of these hills, lawman! We're plumb surprised yuh fell into our little trap."

To speak hurt his throat, but Jim Thurlowe forced his words. "Shadow you? I've never been on these heights before."

The other white man, a slight beard hiding his jaw and mouth, stepped across the edge of the fire and drove a fist into Thurlowe's face. "Don't lie to us, marshal. It ain't healthy! We ain't babes in these woods. We've heard yuh out there, spyin' on us. But even the 'breed couldn't find yuh! What's yore secret? We sure nuff aim to learn it. Might come in handy, eh, Hal?"

The man with the spotted neckerchief laughed. "Sure will, 'specially when we move down onto the flats some night to rustle off some more beef."

The Indian moved, bending forward, staring with his flat black eyes into the bright flames. He grunted in satisfaction. "Brand hot now. Make good mark."

Jim Thurlowe froze. His muscles tensed against the ropes that bound him to a big stake. His eyes were drawn by the brand as by a

magnet. "You—you aren't fixin' to mark me—with that?"

The man with the beard slid around behind Thurlowe and looped another lariat over his arms, and neck. The knot of the noose pressed the back of his neck. A savage voice grated in his ear, "Thet's just what we do aim to do, hombre! We don't want no folks climbin' this mountain! If we want folks to see us, we'll come down—fer their cattle. Haw! Haw! Red-man—grab holt of that iron. Git a move on!"

The breed bent forward, lifted the hot red brand. The man behind Thurlowe tensed his powerful body as Jim prepared to struggle.

And then—

The night came alive with sound!

A horse was thundering through the underbrush—a great giant of a white stallion, mane flying in the breeze, hooves thudding on the hard ground! In the saddle, swaying easily to the mad pace of the white horse—black emptiness! *Nothing!*

A cry broke from the lips of the petrified half-breed! He dropped the branding iron and tried to run. But the man with the spotted neckerchief was thrusting him aside. The white horse hit the two of them with his chest and sent them reeling, screaming with pain and fright, onto the blazing fire.

A pale, glowing hand moved from the darkness on top of the stallion—reached down and seemed to bury itself in the shoulder of the man behind Thurlowe—lifted the man and flung him violently aside!

Jim Thurlowe needed only a few seconds to shuck off the ropes that bound him. His hand clawed for his gun on a nearby stool. He whirled, gun in hand—

Now the man that bestrode the white stallion was visible. He was white and shining, as a ghost might be. In his hand a long black whip, almost invisible in the night, lay coiled. Thurlowe gulped in sudden awe. "You—I know you! Men call you—the *Ghost Rider!*"

A deep, sonorous voice answered him. "That is right. I have been watching these men for some days. They heard me, but could not see me. I have marked their hiding places, their cattle grazelands, on this map—together with a record of the men they have killed. Take it. Take the men to town. See that they pay—at the end of a hangman's noose!"

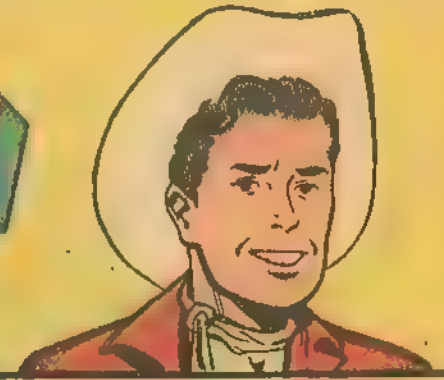
Jim Thurlowe reached out for the papers the mysterious rider was handing him. Then, with a catch at his throat, he saw the great cloak whirl up—and seemingly blot the Ghost Rider from human sight! Now he was just a black nothingness on the white horse. His voice cried out, "*Up, Spectre! On!*"

And the marshal was left alone with his groaning, terrified prisoners.

The End.

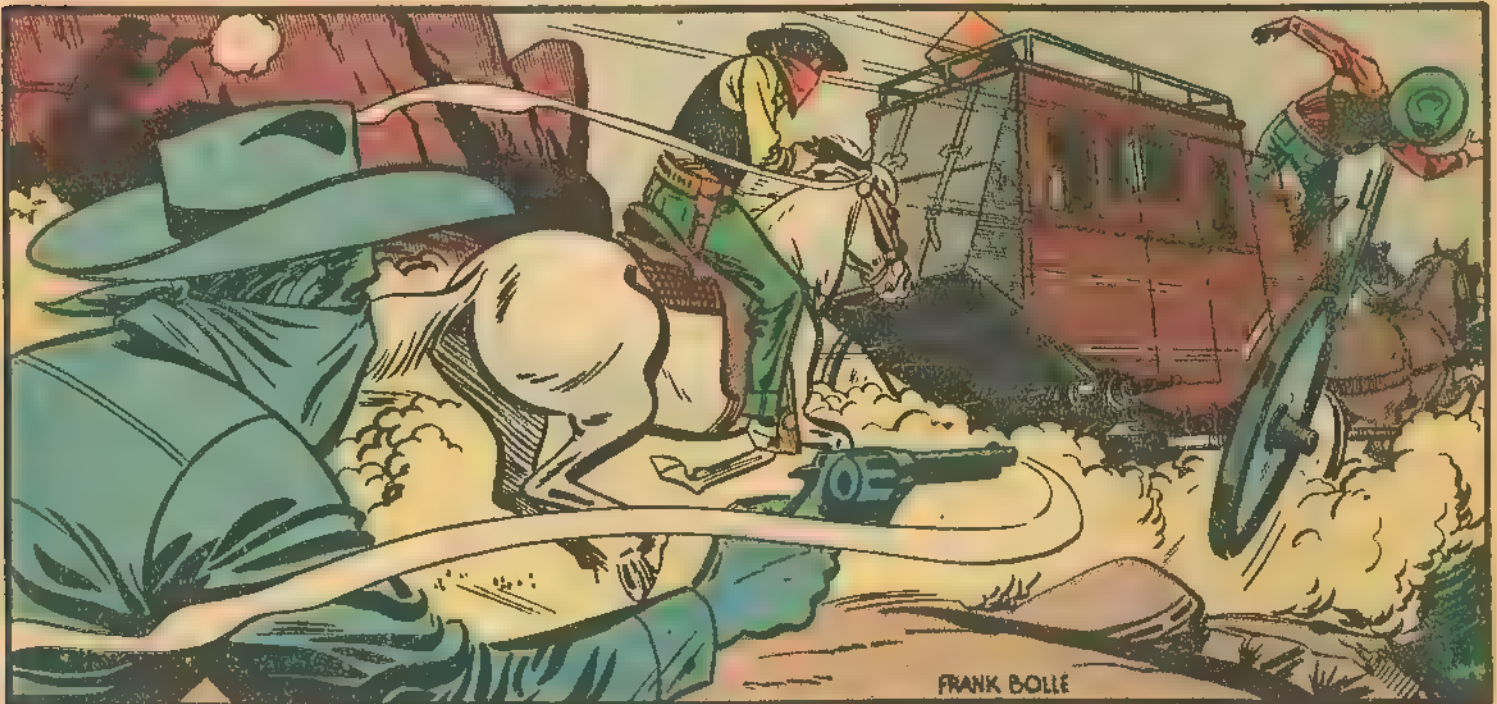
TIM HOLT

TIM HOLT



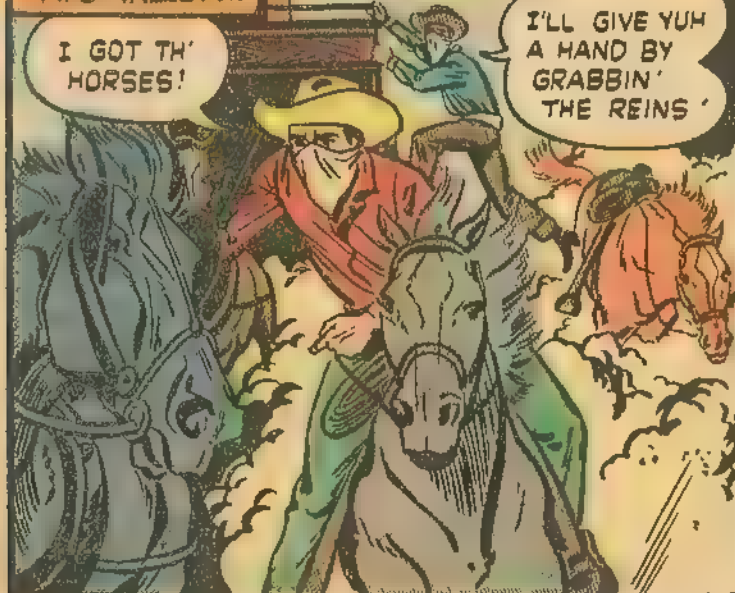
A CAREENING STAGECOACH BEGINS TO TOPPLE AS ITS FEAR-MADDENED HORSES BOLT WITH TERROR! SIXGUNS BLAST THE SILENCE OF THE MOUNTAIN PASS AS MASKED MEN THUNDER ALONGSIDE THE COACH! A GUARD SCREAMS AND FALLS! THE DRIVER LURCHES TO ONE SIDE...!

JUST ONE MORE ROBBERY OF THE WARPIPE STAGE...ONE MORE IN A SERIES OF HOLDUPS THAT CASTS A PALL OF FRIGHT ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE...THAT MAKES MEN SEE DANGER WHERE NONE EXISTS... AND INTO THIS FEAR-HAUNTED COW COUNTRY RIDE TIM HOLT AND CHITO... MARKED AS TWO MORE VICTIMS OF — **"PRAIRIE PANIC!"**

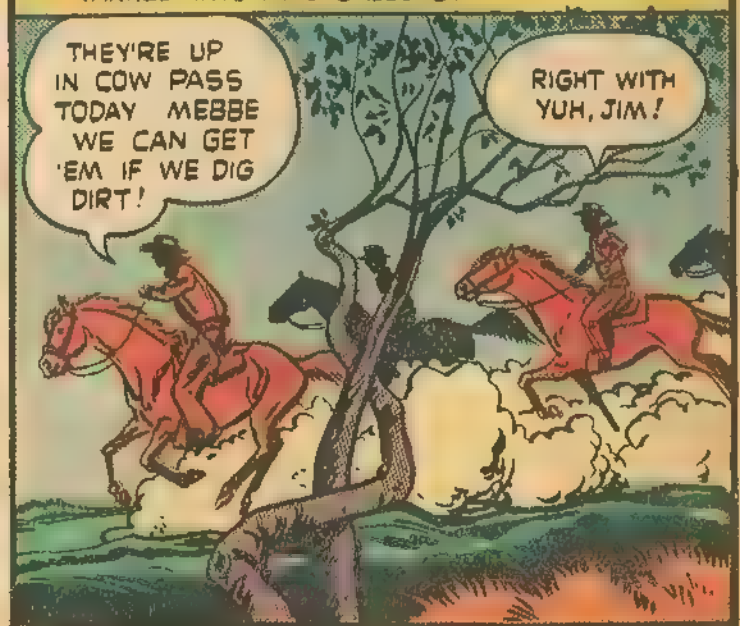


FRANK BOLLE

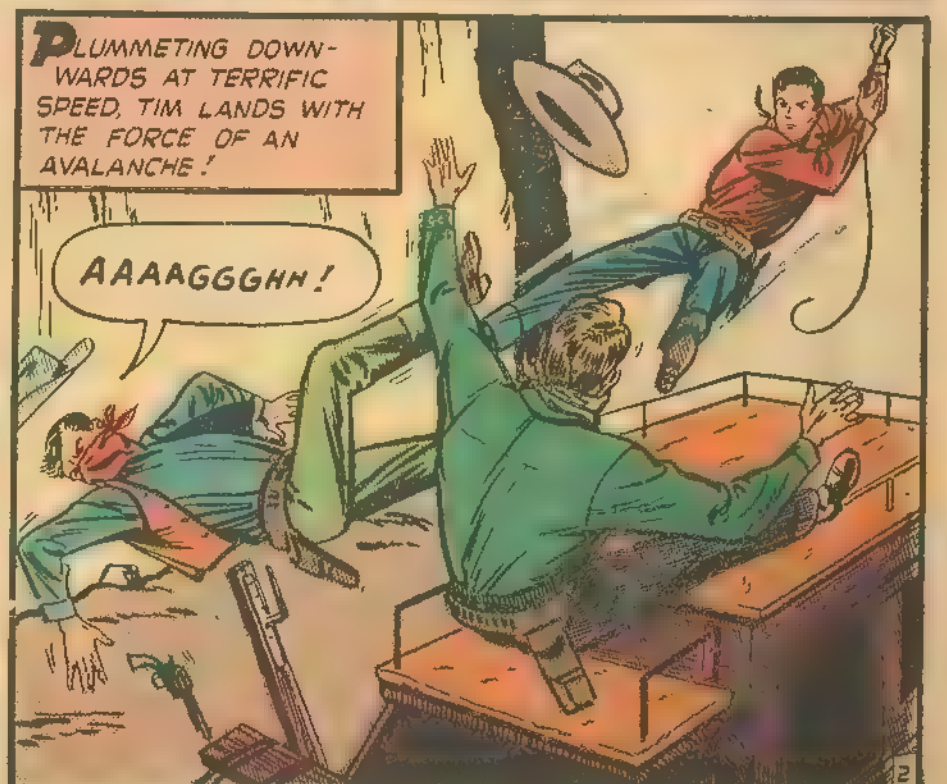
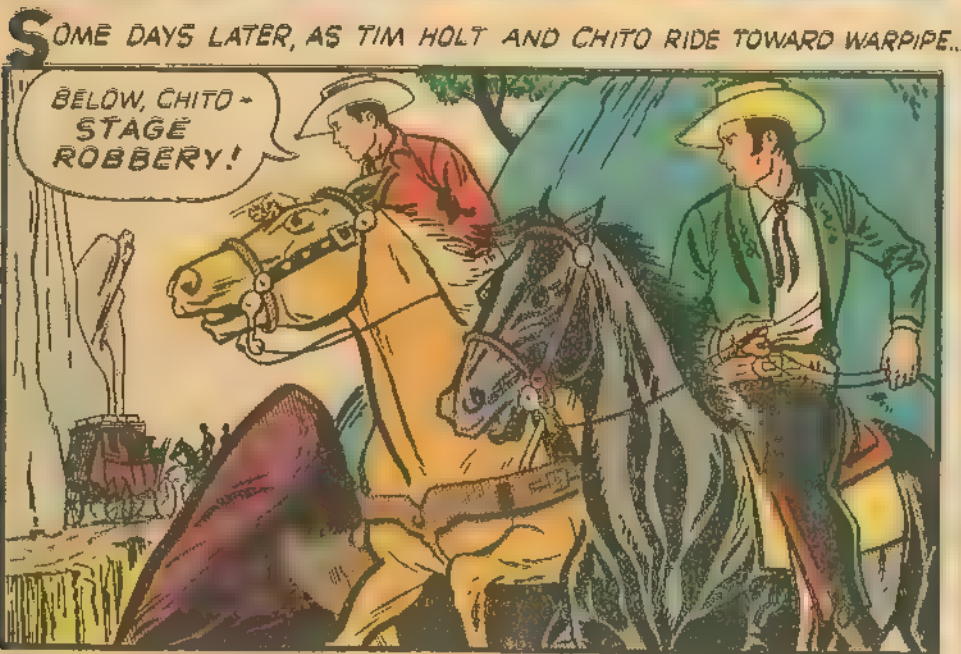
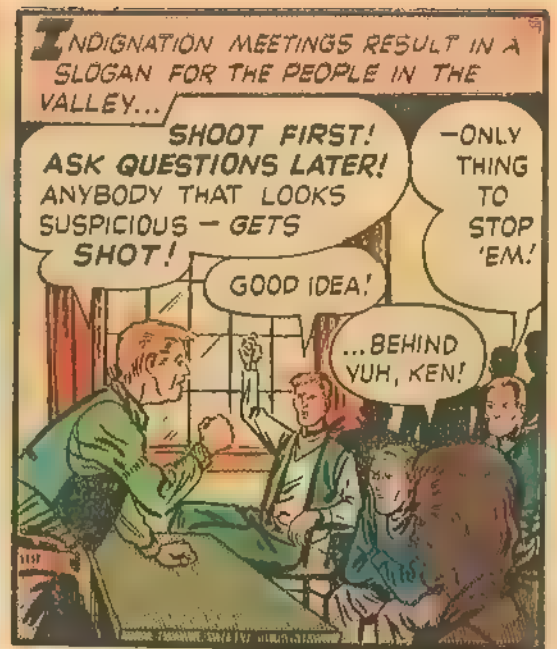
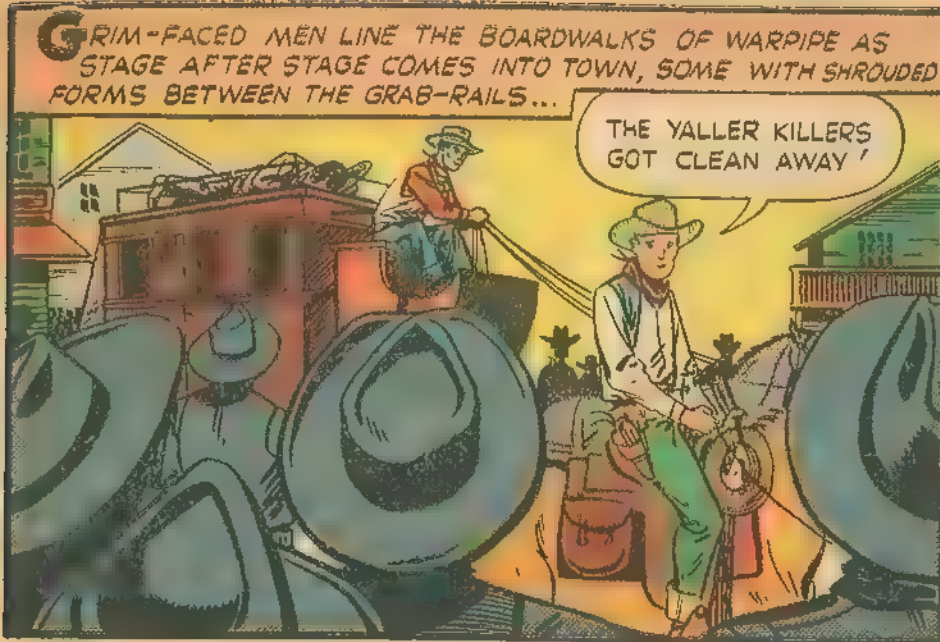
DAY AFTER DAY...ROBBERY AFTER ROBBERY... THE PANIC SWIRLED LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGHOUT WAR-PIPE VALLEY...



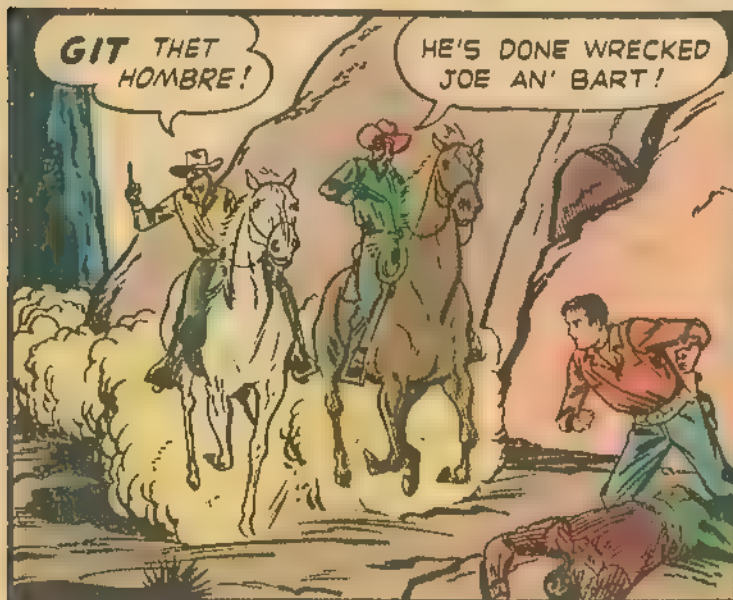
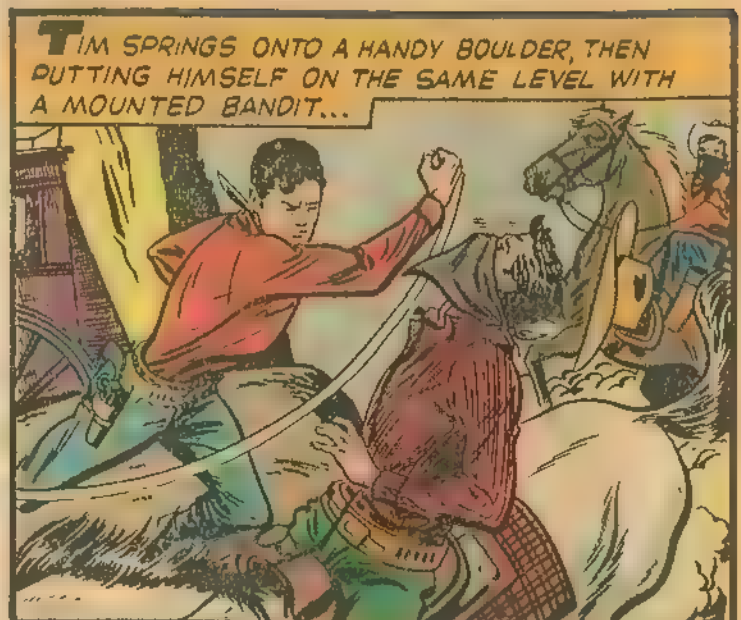
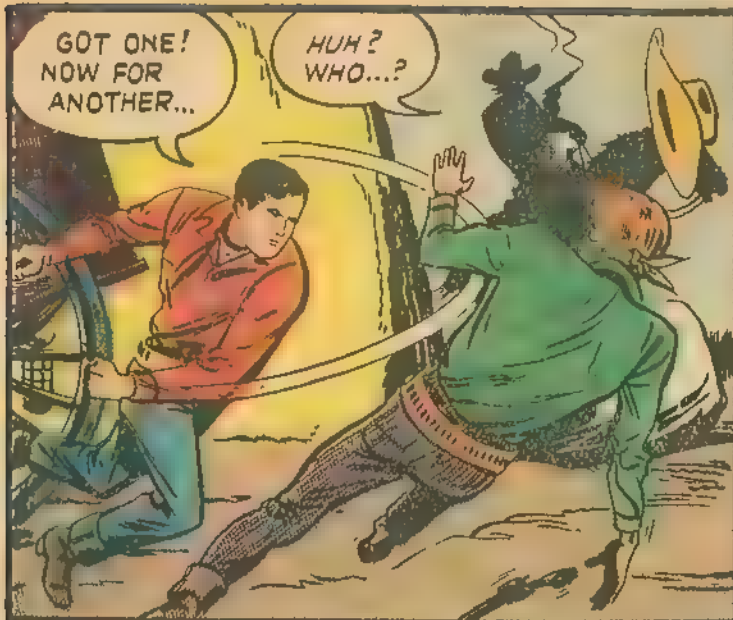
ALERT EARS HEAR THE GUNSHOTS! HORSES ARE YANKED INTO MAD GALLOPS...



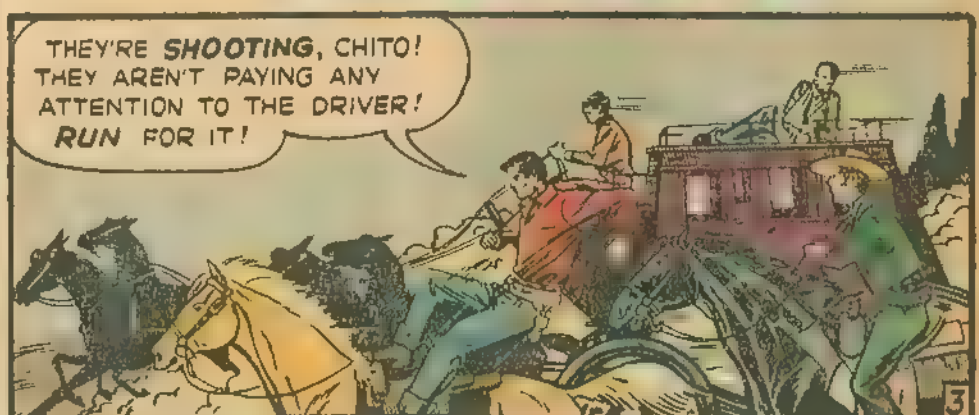
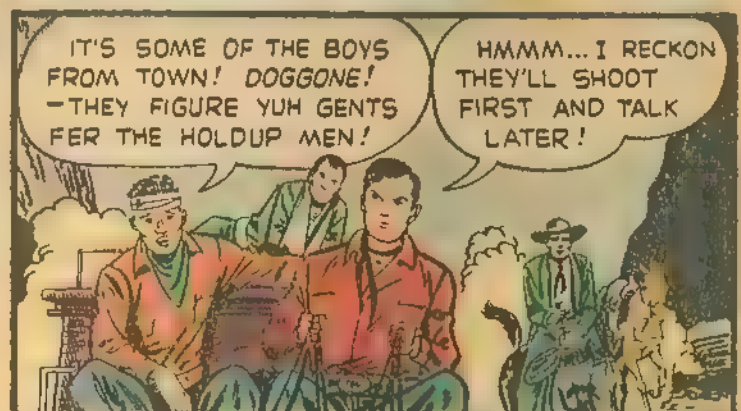
TIM HOLT



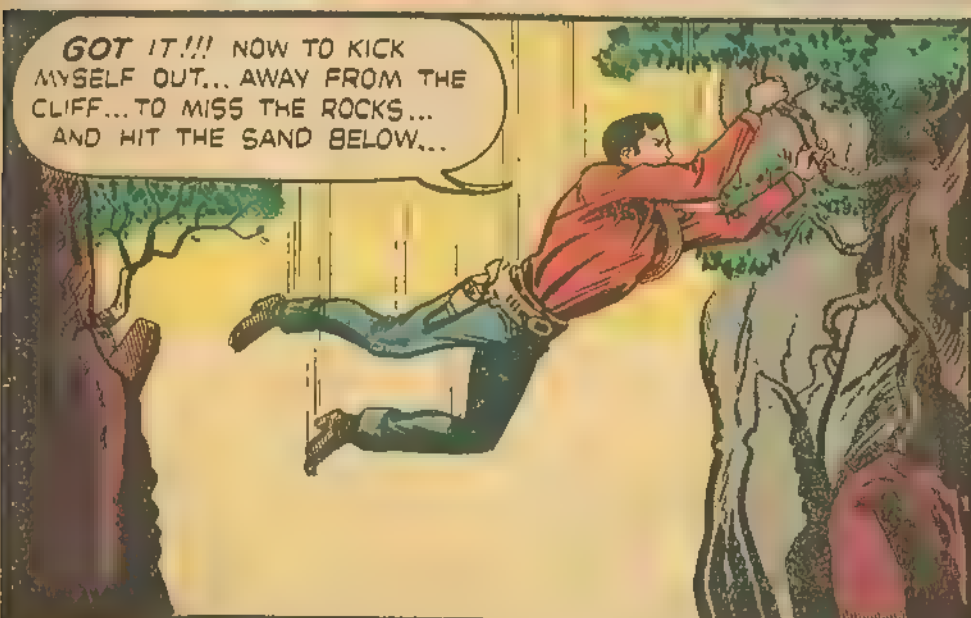
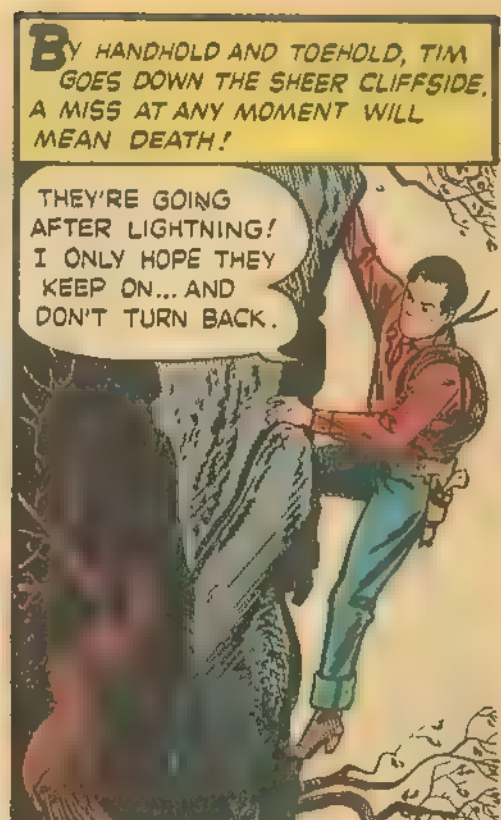
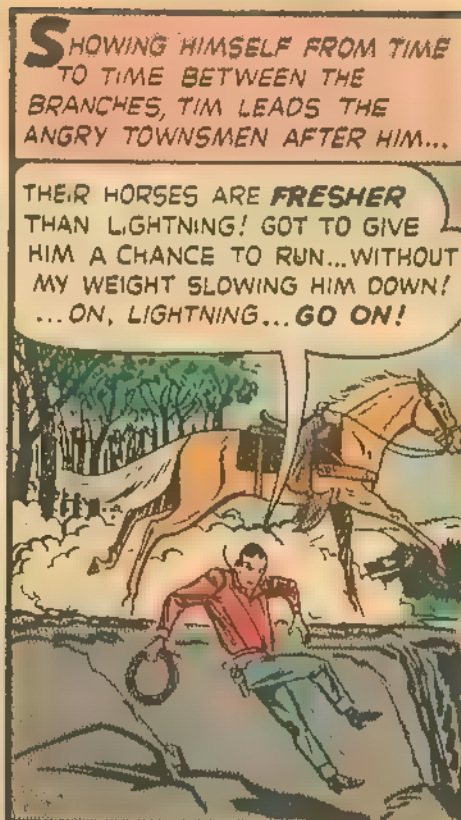
TIM HOLT



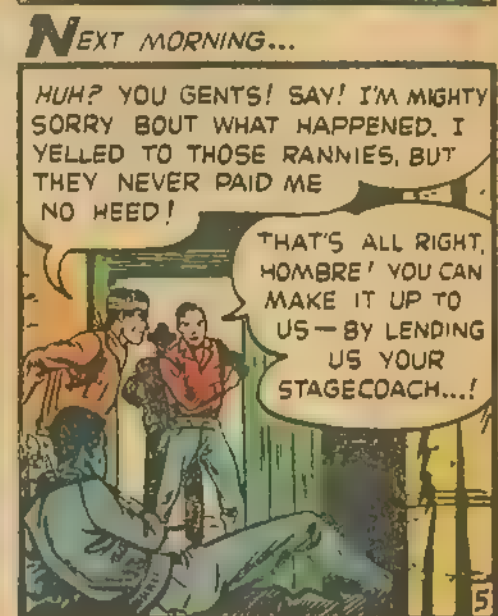
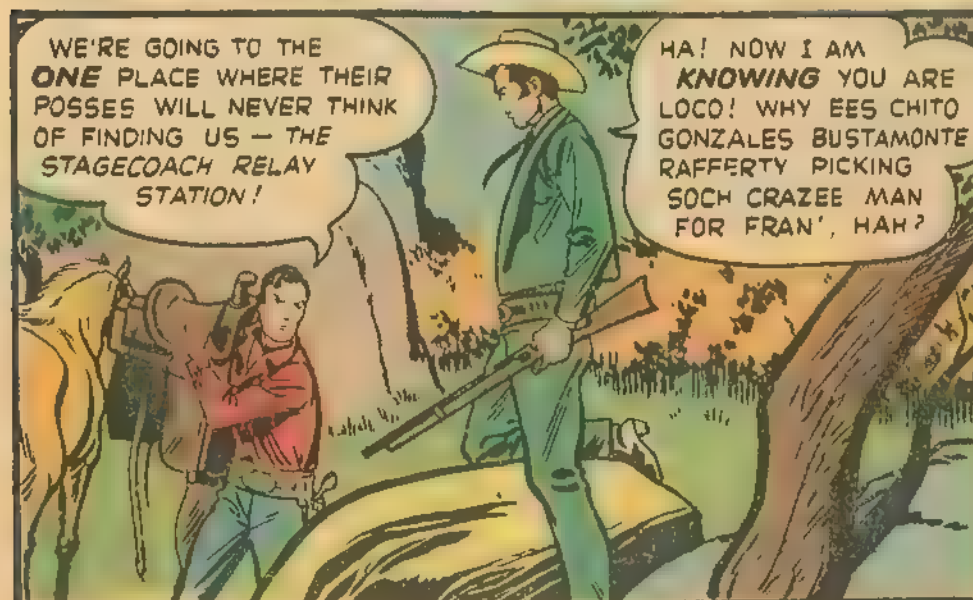
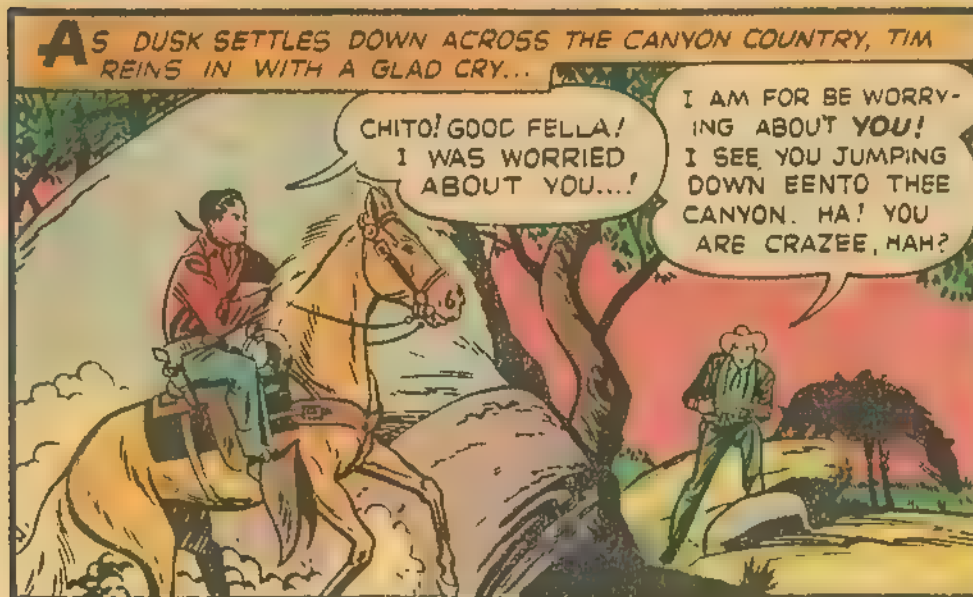
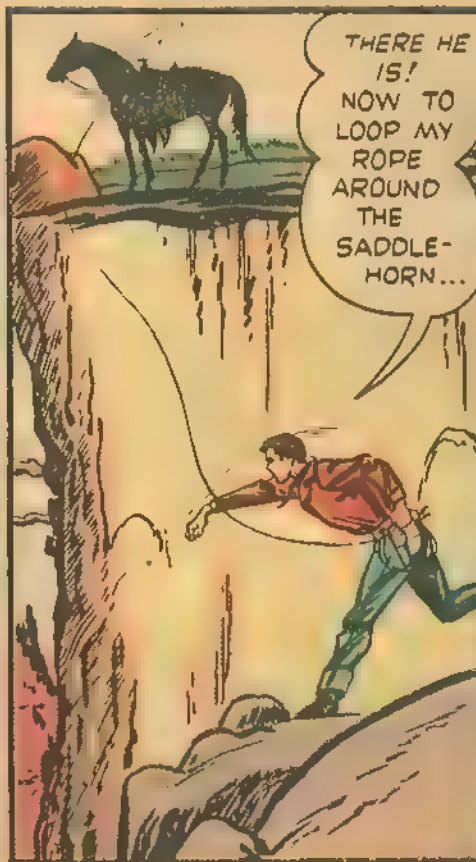
SOME MINUTES LATER, AS TIM AND CHITO ARE BRINGING THE STAGE TOWARD WARPIPE, ANGRY SHOUTS AND THE BARK OF SIXGUNS SEND THE HORSES INTO A GALLOP...



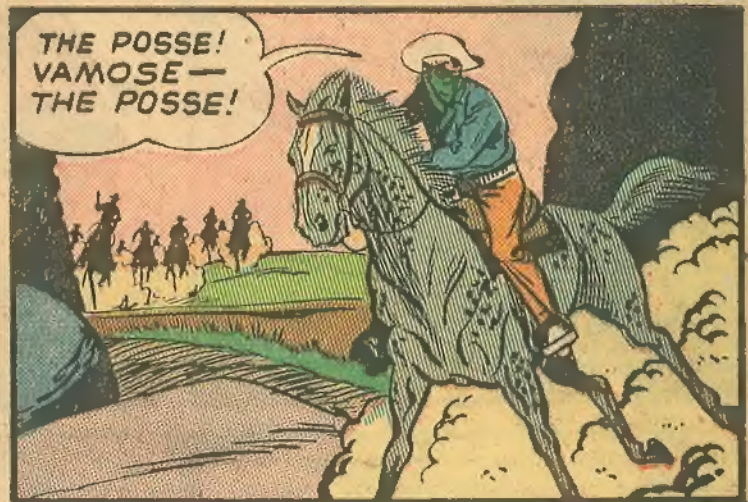
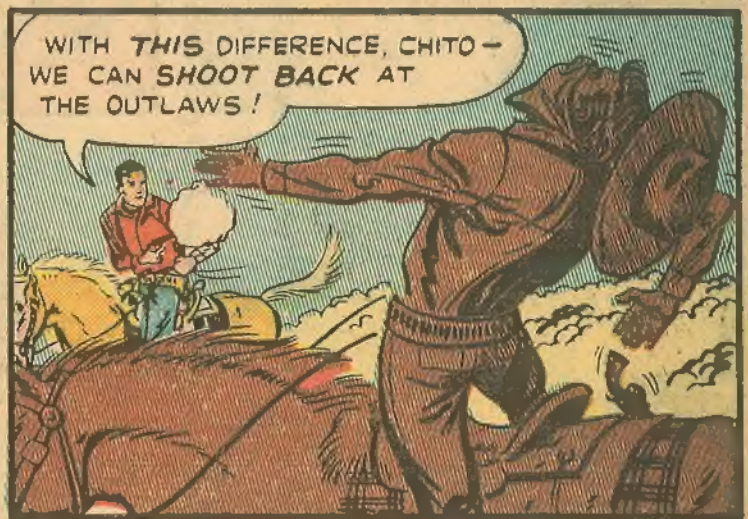
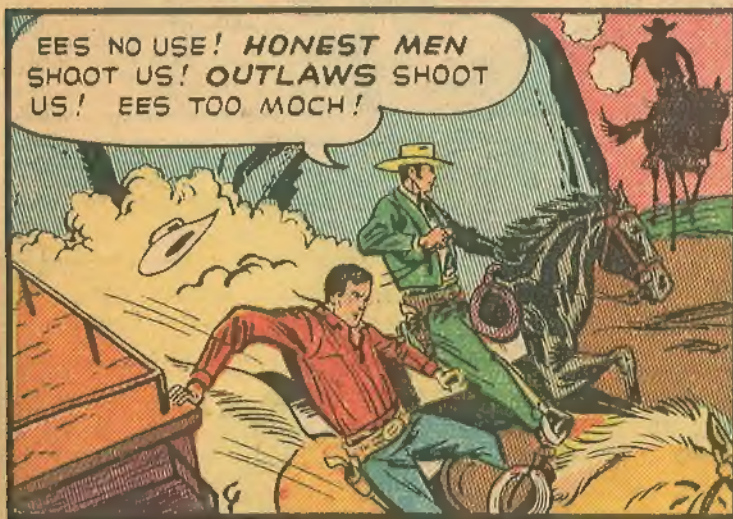
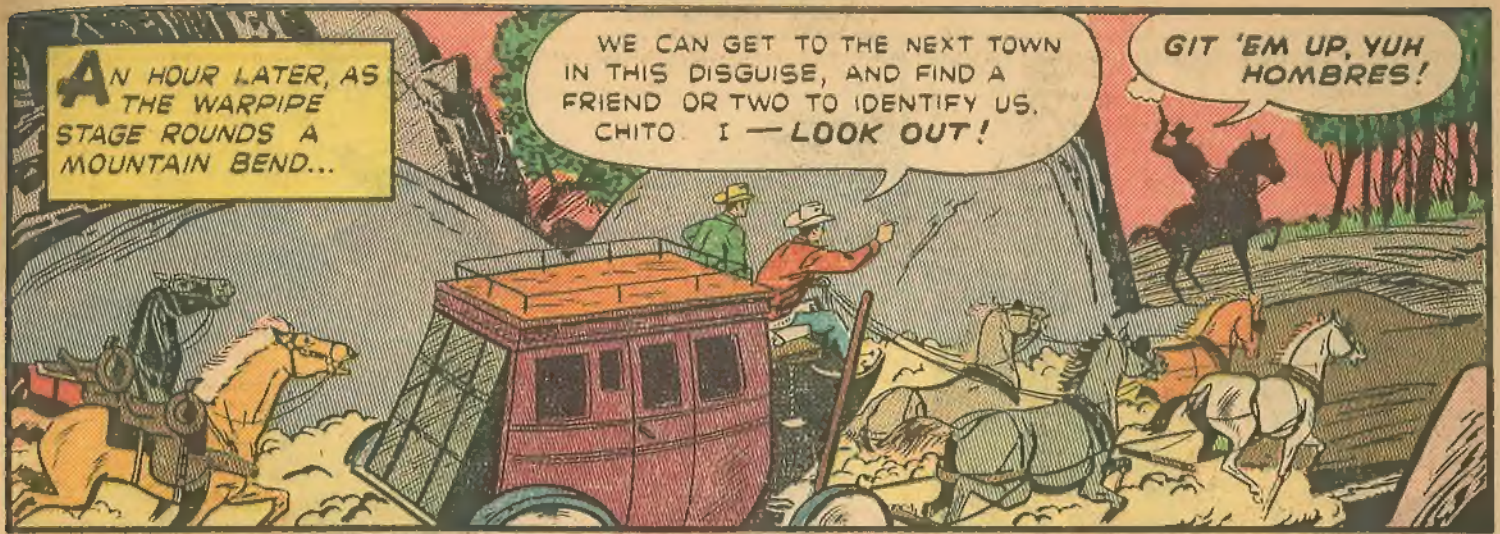
TIM HOLT



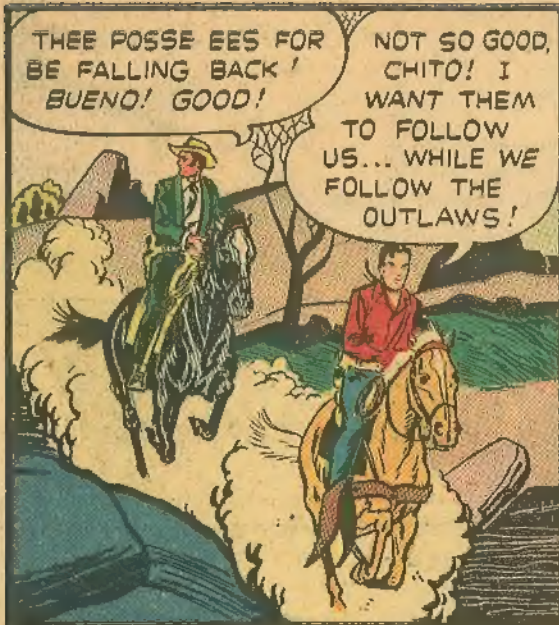
TIM HOLT



TIM HOLT

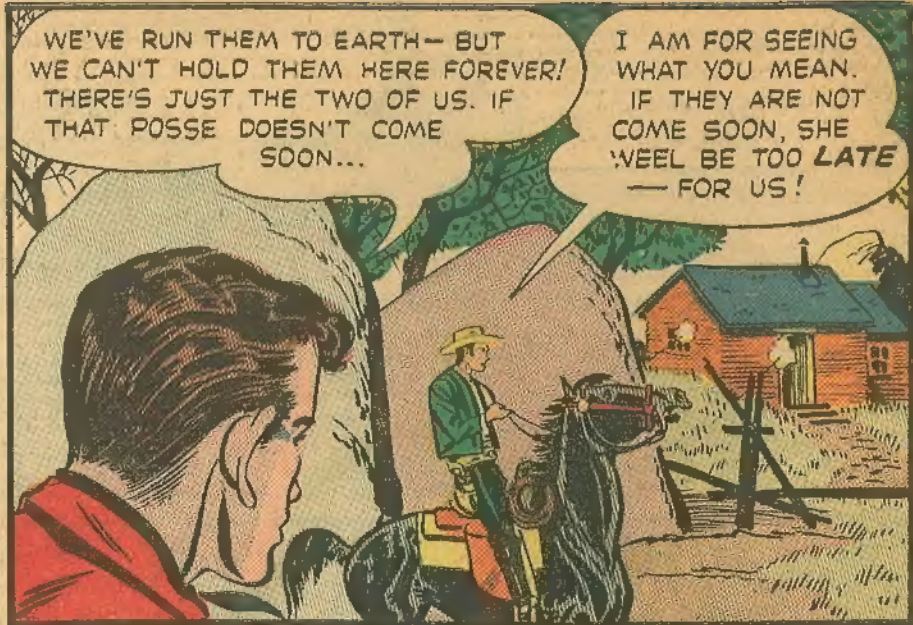


TIM HOLT



THEE POSSE EES FOR
BE FALLING BACK!
BUENO! GOOD!

NOT SO GOOD,
CHITO! I
WANT THEM
TO FOLLOW
US... WHILE WE
FOLLOW THE
OUTLAWS!



WE'VE RUN THEM TO EARTH— BUT
WE CAN'T HOLD THEM HERE FOREVER!
THERE'S JUST THE TWO OF US. IF
THAT POSSE DOESN'T COME
SOON...

I AM FOR SEEING
WHAT YOU MEAN.
IF THEY ARE NOT
COME SOON, SHE
'WHEEL BE TOO LATE
— FOR US!

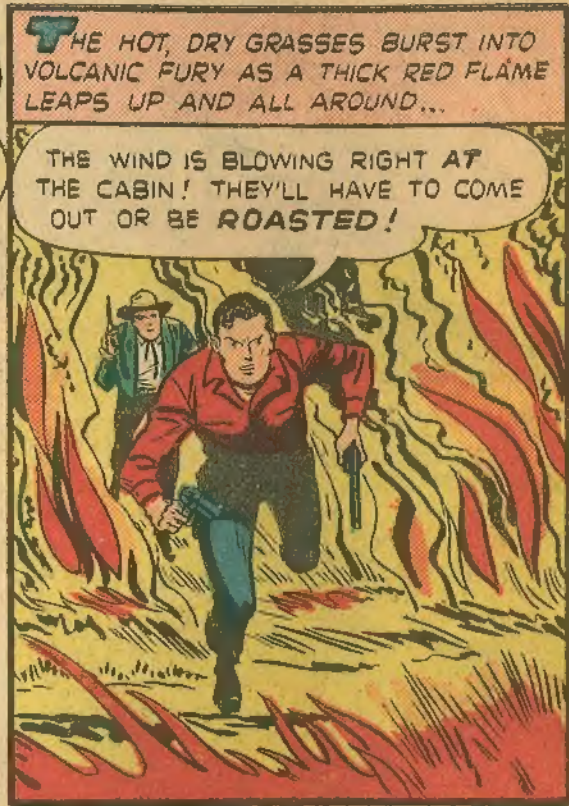


THE ENRAGED OUTLAWS TURN THE
FULL FIRE OF THEIR WINCHESTERS
AND COLTS ON THE PRAIRIELAND
PARTNERS...

YEEE-WOW!
EES FOR BE
HOT PLACE!

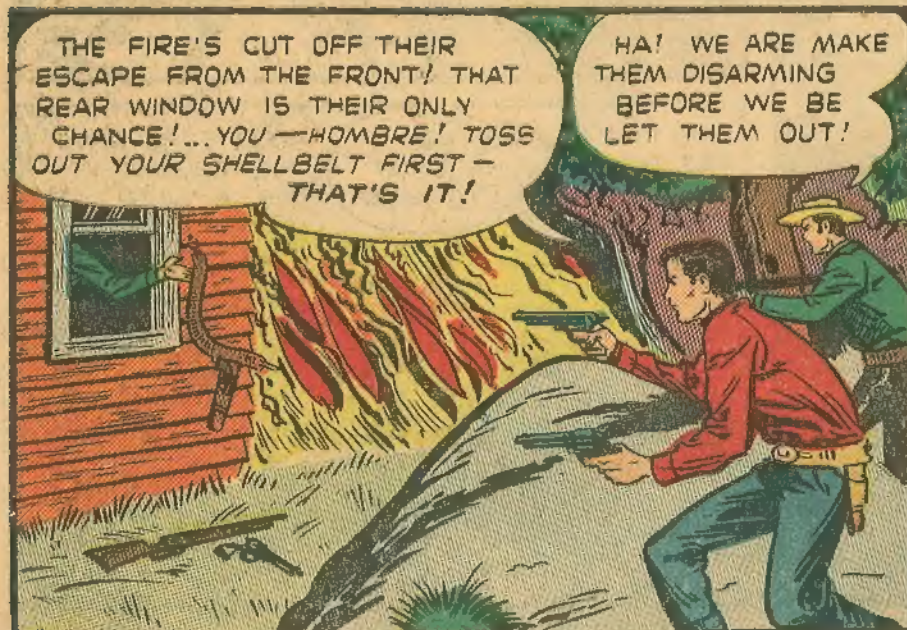


LET 'EM SHOOT!
IT WILL KEEP THEM
BUSY...UNTIL I CAN
SPREAD OUT THIS
GUNPOWDER... AND
SET FIRE TO IT!



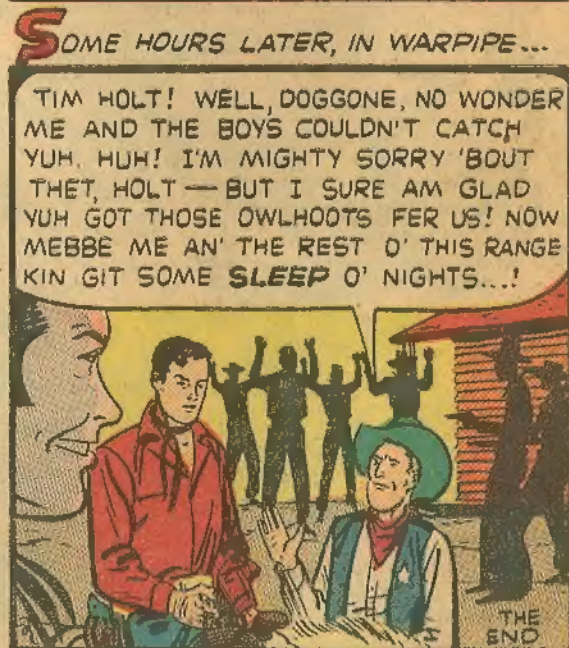
THE HOT, DRY GRASSES BURST INTO
VOLCANIC FURY AS A THICK RED FLAME
LEAPS UP AND ALL AROUND...

THE WIND IS BLOWING RIGHT AT
THE CABIN! THEY'LL HAVE TO COME
OUT OR BE ROASTED!



THE FIRE'S CUT OFF THEIR
ESCAPE FROM THE FRONT! THAT
REAR WINDOW IS THEIR ONLY
CHANCE!...YOU—HOMBRE! TOSS
OUT YOUR SHELLBELT FIRST—
THAT'S IT!

HA! WE ARE MAKE
THEM DISARMING
BEFORE WE BE
LET THEM OUT!



SOME HOURS LATER, IN WARPIPE...

TIM HOLT! WELL, DOGGONE, NO WONDER
ME AND THE BOYS COULDN'T CATCH
YUH. HUH! I'M MIGHTY SORRY 'BOUT
THET, HOLT—BUT I SURE AM GLAD
YUH GOT THOSE OWLHOOTS FER US! NOW
MEBBE ME AN' THE REST O' THIS RANGE
KIN GIT SOME SLEEP O' NIGHTS...!

THE
END

**NEW
THRILLING**

**ADVENTURE STORIES FROM THE
EXCITING DAYS OF THE WEST!**



**STRAIGHT
ARROW**

The
**DURANGO
KID**



**DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE
OF THESE
GREAT MAGAZINES!
ON SALE
EVERYWHERE!**



"HEY! COME ON OVER AND
PLAY **PINBALL!**"

AND BOY! WILL I
MAKE MONEY

Amazing

PINBALL MACHINE BANK

WILL MAKE
YOU \$200!



NOW
ONLY
\$1.98

**HAS SECRET
BUILT-IN
BANK**

This amazing Junior size pinball machine works just like the big pinball machines. Except you can't lose! Every penny, nickel, dime or quarter put in by your family, friends, or yourself falls into a built-in secret savings bank.

Play it yourself. Bring it out when friends and neighbors call. Let them try their skill. The more they play, the more you make. Before you know it, the bank is full. Holds \$200! Send in coupon today and start saving big money this new easy way!

**SEND NO MONEY
Use 10 Days at Our Risk!**

Just fill in, clip, and mail the attached coupon. On arrival of your PINBALL MACHINE BANK, pay postman only \$1.98 plus C.O.D. postage. Use 10 days. If not completely delighted, return for your \$1.98 back. ORDER NOW!

SWISSBANK CO., INC.

DEPT. 589D

173 W. Madison St.,
Chicago 1, Illinois

MAIL THIS
COUPON TODAY
AND YOU CAN
MAKE BIG
MONEY, TOO!



CLIP & MAIL COUPON NOW

SWISSBANK CO., INC., Dept. 589D
173 W. Madison St., Chicago 1, Ill.

Please rush my PINBALL MACHINE BANK. I will pay postman only \$1.98 plus C.O.D. postage on arrival. I may return within 10 days for refund of purchase price if not delighted.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

☐ Save Money! Send cash, WE pay postage.